



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

## TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

### MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Aibreán / April  
2025



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT p37



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT p27



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES p34



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT p10



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT p52



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p1

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscatal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040

Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



### Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025

On 19th March 2025, Minister Dara Calleary launched the 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS). The Scheme is designed to support the revitalisation of rural Ireland and to build greater resilience in town centres through regeneration projects. The Fund will support projects throughout the County with a focus on stimulating town centre economic and social regeneration through sustainable employment creation.

Funding is available under the following 3 categories:

#### 1. Main Scheme

The Main Scheme supports projects that enhance town centre vibrancy, including:

- Town centre regeneration and plaza development.
- Development of green spaces and recreational amenities.
- Enhancement of streetscapes and shopfronts.
- Creation of markets (farmers, artisan, and open-air).
- Upgrading community centres and public realm infrastructure.
- Repurposing vacant/derelict buildings into multi-purpose community spaces.

#### Grant Levels:

- Minimum grant: €50,000
- Maximum grant: €500,000 per local authority (LA) for one project.
- Up to 3 projects with a €300,000 funding ceiling each.

**Funding Terms:** 90% of project costs funded (10% match from LA, community, or philanthropic contributions)

**Expression of Interest Deadline:** 30th May 2025.

Clare County Council will be advertising for Expressions of Interest for projects under the Main Scheme.

Further details, including details of how to apply will be available on the Councils website at <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/townandvillagerenewal/>

**Community groups are strongly encouraged to liaise with their local Rural and Community Development Officer in advance of submitting an Expression of Interest.**

### 2. Project Development Measure (PDM)

The PDM provides up to €50,000 for planning strategic projects that can progress to construction quickly when funding becomes available. It covers costs such as design, procurement, and planning.

- LAs can submit 2 PDM applications.
- Grant covers 90% of total costs
- **Application Deadline:** 25th July 2025.

### 3. Building or Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM)

B/LAM allows LAs to purchase vacant/derelict buildings or land for town regeneration. Properties must serve as multi-purpose community spaces or assets.

- Local authorities may purchase up to a combined total of 3 vacant or derelict buildings and/or pieces of land where the drawdown of funds can be completed in 2025.
- Total Fund available under this measure: €500,000 per LA.
- 100% of purchase costs funded (excluding transactional costs).
- Purchased assets must be used in a regeneration project within three years or developed by 2028.
- To draw down funds, local authorities will need to have:
  - (i) An independent valuer's report confirming the value of the building or land;
  - (ii) Building Inspection Report / Building Survey for any buildings being purchased;
  - (iii) Proof that the sale has been legally agreed;
  - (iv) Proof of transfer of the monies from the LA.

The above should be submitted to the Department by **21st November 2025.**

- **Application Deadline:** 2nd May 2025.

### Important Note

The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest to Clare County Council in respect of the Main Scheme differs from the Department of Rural and Community Development's deadlines. This allows the Council to review and shortlist projects for submission to the Department. Final funding decisions rest with the Department of Rural and Community Development.



### Launch of the Elderly Safety in the Home Project in Ennis West

The Cloughleigh Residents and Development Group has launched the Elderly Safety in the Home Project in Ennis West, aimed at enhancing security for elderly residents. The initiative involves installing video doorbells and chimes in ten homes. Funding is through the Local Enhancement Programme, Department of Rural and Community Development. Administered by the Clare Local Development Committee, the project aligns with the Clare Local Development Economic and Community Plan's goal of fostering an age-friendly environment where residents feel safe and have access to supportive services.



(L-R) Kieran Walsh, Cloughleigh Residents and Development Group; Bernadette Haugh, Senior Executive Officer, Clare County Council; Cllr Tom O'Callaghan; Brigid Mullane, Cloughleigh Residents and Development Group; Cllr Joe Killeen, Chairperson of the Clare Local Community Development Committee; Cllr Antoinette Baker Bashua, Cloughleigh Residents and Development Group; and Niamh Wiley, Rural and Community Development Officer, Rural Development, Clare County Council.

1. Support Fund for promoting a Healthy Weight (Max Grant €2,000 per application)
2. Support Fund for promoting Positive Mental Health (Max Grant €2,000 per application)
3. Creative Ireland Funding, through Healthy Clare to promote Healthy Weight projects, delivered through creative mediums. (Max Grant €500 per application)
4. Creative Ireland Funding, through Healthy Clare to promote Positive Mental Health projects, delivered through creative mediums. (Max Grant €500 per application)

All applications will now be appraised with outcomes notified to applicants in April.

### Clare Comhairle Na nÓg, launch Period Poverty video with the Dept. of Health



On 6th March 2025, members of the Clare Comhairle Na nÓg committee, accompanied by, Kathy Coleman Clare County Council's Comhairle Na nÓg Coordinator and Samantha McCarthy, Healthy Clare Coordinator, Clare County Council, travelled to Dublin at the invitation of the Department of Health.

The purpose of the visit was to launch a short film titled 'It Should Be Like Toilet Paper', aimed at raising awareness of period dignity in Ireland. The event was a highlight of Women's Health Week 2025 and took place at the Department of Health, with the Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing, and the National Drugs Policy, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, in attendance.

The film, produced by Clare Comhairle Na nÓg, underscored the event's central theme: 'Period Dignity for All'. A powerful speech delivered by a Comhairle member complemented the film, earning praise from Dr. Fiona Mansergh, Assistant Principal of the Health and Wellbeing Programme at the Department of Health. She noted that the contributions from Clare Comhairle Na nÓg "really helped to make this a special Women's Health Week occasion."

## HEALTHY CLARE

### Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2025

Healthy Clare launched the 2025 Healthy Clare Micro Fund on the 13th February 2025 and closed for applications on 14th March 2025. A total of 66 applications were received under the 4 Healthy Clare funding strands.

The launch aligned with ongoing efforts to address period poverty in County Clare, led by Healthy Clare. To date, Healthy Clare has distributed 1,800 free period products across council-owned spaces, ensuring accessibility for the public. An additional €15,000 in funding from the Department of Health has been secured to sustain this initiative. The Free Period Poverty Initiative is a collaborative effort supported by Clare County Council's Local Community Development Committee, Clare Libraries, Active Ennis, Comhairle Na nÓg, and the Council's Human Resources Department.

The day was a significant milestone in amplifying the voices of young people and advancing the period dignity agenda. Samantha McCarthy, Healthy Clare Coordinator, emphasised the importance of such initiatives in fostering community wellbeing. The event underscored Clare's leadership in tackling period poverty and reinforced the value of partnerships between local organisations and national bodies like the Department of Health.

Link to view video <https://vimeo.com/1009350697?share=copy>



Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Alan O'Callaghan, and Dr. Carmel Kirby, Interim Chief Executive of Clare County Council, travelled to New York City, US, during March to meet with the New York Clare Association, as well as participate in the 2025 New York St Patrick's Day Parade. The itinerary for the New York trip included meetings with representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the IDA.



*Pictured are Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan, Interim Chief Executive Carmel Kirby, Cllr. Michael Begley, TD Cathal Crowe, PJ Ryan and members of the New York Clare Association.*



The Cathaoirleach and Interim Chief Executive met with representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland, the IDA as pictured above.

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 2nd April 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	135	36
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5	0
Appeals handled by Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	4	0



Data Access Requests - Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	13	3
Data Requests - Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0	0
Data Access Requests - Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardai	20	27	27	29	29	8

## Communications

The Communications Office communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest.

21 media releases were issued during March 2025, including:

- Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 in County Clare
- Funding sought for Transformational Public Realm projects in Crusheen and Killaloe-Ballina
- Contract signed for Age Friendly housing in Kilrush

## Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels to maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In the period 1-31 March 2025, the Communications Office:

- Posted 71 times on Facebook, with total followers now 22,124.
- Posted 63 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers over 8.8K.
- 71 Posts on Instagram followers are now 4,484.

(Statistics accurate as of 31/3/2025)

## Register of Electors

Work is continuing by the project team within the Franchise Section on reviewing the accurateness of the existing data on the Register of Electors, including duplicate date of birth/PPSN/addresses. Dublin City Council are the lead authority for this project. Work will continue to September 2025, when it will be paused due to the impending Presidential Election.

## Business Innovation

The Innovation team continue to progress projects that will improve efficiency in the services provided.

The Team Lead is currently co-ordinating a project for Shannon MD for development of an ArcGis system to show location of water/gas networks. A Housing Dashboard is also being developed to manage the inspection of Housing stock.

# CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

## Clare Libraries



Ukrainian Book Presentation - Alina Senkova and Olena Stepanova present a book on the lives of famous Ukrainian people to De Valera Library staff member Caroline Collins.

## De Valera Library

On Friday 14 March 2025, a group of Ukrainian adults and children held a poetry reading in the De Valera Library celebrating the works of Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. Each year in March, the poetry and prose of this cultural icon are celebrated in his home country. The children celebrated their Ukrainian heritage

and loved dressing up in green to celebrate our national holiday.

De Valera library was delighted to host 2 events as part of the Ennis Book Club festival 2025. Pat Boran enthralled the audience with a selection of short poetry films and talked about how poetry and film come together.

Nicola Lennon celebrated 20 years of her book club by leading a lively discussion on book clubs and her unique approach to selecting books to read. Nicola and some members of her book club, travelled from Brussels for this special occasion, and they were also joined by a Swedish book group who travelled to visit the festival. An enthusiastic and vocal audience loved telling their own book group stories.




## Online Resources usage

The reading of e-magazines and e-newspapers continues to be one of the most used online resources in Clare Libraries



## Marketing & Social media

A staff member was interviewed on Clare FM in relation to laptops and tablets being made available to the public in Clare libraries. A total of 48 people attended two events for Seachtain na Gaeilge which were held in Ennistymon and Kilrush libraries, this was in collaboration with the Council Irish Officer. A total of 30 booklets, Pabhsaer Inis Meáin were circulated to attendees. There was one Media release for Seachtain na Gaeilge and information brochures in Ukrainian were supplied to a group visiting De Valera library. Author Ann Cleeves visited De Valera Library during Ennis Book Club Festival.

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes/ Reactions
	8,382	48	46,600	980
	2,602	59	11,219	8,723
	2,134	7	2,800	21

## Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	269
Total audiences at in branch events	3,580
Total number of outreach events	10
Total audiences at outreach events	36
Total number of deliveries	12
Total number of class novels issued	24

## Right to Read



Teen Week at Scariff Library - Author Zainab Boladale discusses her book 'Braids Take A Day' with students from Scariff Community School during Teen Week 2025.

## Children's Services March

Teen Week took place in Ennis and Scariff Library from 3rd to 7th March. Secondary School students attended workshops in both libraries on making zines, creative writing with Fighting Words, film production, astronomy and an author visit from Zainab Boladale who spoke about her novel "Braids Take a Day".

Healthy Ireland



Children attending active storytime with Sports Partnership in Kilrush Library

There were three Healthy Ireland events this month. Lizzy McManus from Clare Sports Partnership facilitated active story-time sessions for 3 Gaelscoil classes on Friday 21st March. A total of 46 children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions.

## Creative Ireland

The ongoing projects and initiatives under Creative Ireland are making significant strides in promoting creativity and inclusivity within the community. Work this month included:

The application process for Cruinniú na nÓg has recently concluded, with applicants receiving funding outcomes by mid-March. One of the focuses this year is to amplify seldom heard voices through partnerships with organisations such as Helium Arts, Clare Youth Service, and Ennis Voices for Autism. This focus aims to ensure inclusivity in our creative programming. A highlight this year will be a Creative Campus established at De Valera Library, Súil, and glór, serving as a hub for creativity and collaboration.

## Recent Funded Projects included:

### Film Production Workshop for Teenagers

In collaboration with West Clare Film and hosted at Ennis and Scariff Libraries, the Film Production Workshop provided teenagers with practical skills in film production, encouraging storytelling through visual media,

### A Trio of Crime' at Sean Lemass Library

This event featured a panel of authors specialising in Crime Fiction. Participants had the opportunity to hear about the authors' writing techniques, backgrounds, and the various sub-genres within Crime Fiction, enriching community engagement with literature.

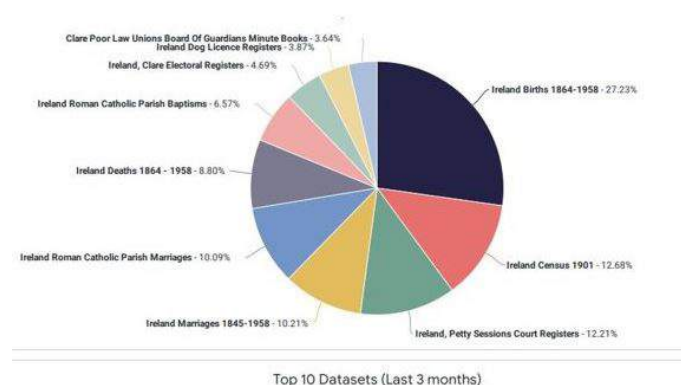
### The Bluebird Singers

A series of singing workshops designed for adults with intellectual disabilities, culminating in a final performance scheduled for May in glór. This initiative not only promotes artistic expression but also enhances social connections and personal growth.

### Transition Year Programme at Súil Gallery

Transition Year students engaged in a hands-on 4-day experience where they co-created an exhibition concept, developed design prototypes, and showcased their final work. This programme has successfully fostered creativity and critical thinking skills among participants.

## Local Studies



### Find My Past top search Jan-March

The Local Studies librarian has received papers relating to the O'Dea family of Kilrush, who ran several businesses in the town. This collection provides an insight into the economic life of the town through the 19th and 20th century. He also presented talks to the Clare Roots society, on genealogical documents held in Local Studies, and to the Kilrush Historical Society, on conservation of archives and books. Work on the Local Studies Website upgrade is ongoing. The Clare Champion continues to be the most requested paper from the Irish Newspaper Archive online resource.

## Clare Archives

A total of 80 documents were digitised from Cumann na mBan material donated to Clare Archives. The digitisation of ledgers from a shop in Kilrush circa 1870 also occurred. The archivist facilitated a PhD student for their thesis on Our Lady's in association with the HSE.

## Clare Arts Office



TY student project in Súil Gallery

An application for three year funding for the Creative Places Shannon Programme was submitted to the Arts Council.

The Arts Officer was invited to Áras an Uachtarán on St. Patrick's Day to a reception on the theme of 'Imagination and the Nation'. Five support and strategic meetings were had with artists and arts

organisations and Arts office staff attended partnership meetings with Music Generation Clare and the Creative Youth Partnership as well as the launch of the Chris Droney Memorabilia Collection in the Burren Centre, Kilfenora.

Clare Arts launched the Creative Bursaries Award and held an online clinic regarding same. They also launched the Per Cent for Art Commission for the Inis Cealtra Visitor Centre. Clare Arts staff assisted with film enquiries regarding shooting scenes for an Irish pilot TV show in Kilaloe and a major Apple TV travel documentary in North Clare. WRAP did a social media promotional feature on filming in Clare.

A total of 147 people attended three films (one as Gaeilge), one yoga event and Staff Talks in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee. Three Arts in Clare slots happened on Clare FM. The Arts in the Community programme continued in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and in Raheen Hospital.

Clare Arts staff attended a webinar by Youth Theatre Ireland. Clare Youth Theatre continued to meet weekly and the teenage group performed at Ennis Book Club Festival. Súil hosted a music and literary event as part of the festival and the Arts Officer introduced the Sunday Symposium. The Arts Officer updated the SPC on the Arts Plan Consultations and public consultations took place in Kilkee, Ennis, Scariff and Shannon. A drama residency started with the HSE Orchard Centre in Kilrush. A schools residency began in Labasheeda NS.

A studio in Tulla Stables was allocated to an artist collective. Three exhibitions took place in Clare Museum, Scariff Gallery and Cultúrlann Sweeney. *Liníocht: A Selection of Works From The National Collection of Contemporary Drawing* which featured over 60 works by Irish artists, loaned by the Limerick City Gallery of Art was enjoyed by 392 two visitors in March and provided the backdrop for a week long transition year programme with 16 pupils from Rice College and Ennistymon Community College. Súil staff are working alongside external assessors to score the 213 applications received from Súil's first Open Call for exhibition and event proposals.

## Social Media

Facebook 19 February 2025 - 19 March 2025					
	Views	Post reach	Page Likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	23,190	6,097	2,921	53	3,505
Cultúrlann Sweeney	18,528	7,043	1,893	5	2,121
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	899	180	548	7	589
Riches of Clare	1,950	811	2,862	2	2,851
Clare culture night	199	93	1,201	0	1,314
Arts In Clare Group					3,555
Clare trad Group					2,755



Instagram 19 February 2025 - 19 March 2025

Account	views	Followers	reach
Clare Arts Office	2,213	979	707
Culture Night	3	226	2
Súil	3,487	159	685

## Clare Museum

A total of 35 people attended a talk given Dr Marion Dowd on Archaeology of Caves in the Burren as part of the museum's monthly Lecture Series this month. Up to 70 primary school

children from Holy Family NS, along with their teachers and a Heritage in Schools archaeologist, visited the museum and 25 older people visited the museum as part of a Dublin-based Active Retirement group visit to County Clare. The Ennis-based Atlas Language School brought 60 students on 4 individual visits to the museum during March.

The Strategic Plan 2024-2029, an implementation plan for 2025 and an Education Policy for Clare Museum 2024-2029 were all adopted by the SPC. These are all required for accreditation purposes.

## KILLALOE MD

The focus of work in Killaloe MD for March was the preparation and submission of two significant Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) applications and also getting roads in the network ready for the upcoming Roads Work Programme.

### Killaloe - Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Strategy

#### Killaloe-Ballina Twin-Town Tourism, Regeneration and Enhancement RRDF Application

Killaloe MD led the preparation of a significant Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) application, along with Tipperary County Council, for the commencement of the detailed design and feasibility of a number of projects and improvements to the public realm in Killaloe and Ballina under the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan. The RRDF application was lodged on 14th March and following significant economic and financial appraisal and input.



#### Elected Members and staff of Killaloe MD launch of the Killaloe-Ballina Twin-Town Tourism, Regeneration and Enhancement RRDF Application

At the March Meeting of Killaloe Municipal District, the Killaloe-Ballina Twin-Town Tourism, Regeneration and Enhancement RRDF Application was launched and a presentation by Brian

McCarthy Senior Planner outlined the content of the RRDF Application.

The RRDF Project, is based on the *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan* and seeks project development funding focused on:

- Revitalising the public realm in Killaloe-Ballina town centres, making them more attractive for investment, business growth, and social activity.
- Enhancing town centre mobility and connectivity, ensuring seamless movement between key commercial, residential, and tourism areas.
- Addressing vacancy and underutilised sites, transforming them into high-value public spaces and commercial hubs.
- Supporting sustainable tourism growth, leveraging Killaloe-Ballina's location as a key destination in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.
- Strengthening business, retail, and hospitality activity, ensuring increased footfall and dwell time in the town centre.
- Delivering sustainable transport solutions, including enhanced pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, traffic management, and parking solutions.

The delivery of the Killaloe-Ballina RRDF Application is an objective of the Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Workplan 2024-2029

### Killaloe Courthouse set for cultural revival as Feasibility Strategy completed

Derelict and vacant since the mid-1990s, Killaloe Courthouse was acquired by Clare County Council in the early 2000s and was subsequently identified as an Opportunity Site in the *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Strategy*.

Funded under the Government's Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS), the recently completed feasibility study by Drake Hourigan Architects involved extensive consultation



and input from Elected Members of Killaloe Municipal District (MD) and the local communities in and around Killaloe.



*Elected Members of Killaloe MD, BMc AR and Ailish Drake and Conor Hourigan from Drake Hourigan Architects outside at the launch of the Killaloe Courthouse Feasibility Study.*

The Feasibility Study launched in March, proposes to transform Killaloe Courthouse into a cultural and musical venue. The reuse of the vacant courthouse for arts, culture and community use would revitalise the Killaloe town and help to showcase the vibrant arts and culture sector that exists in Killaloe and the surrounding areas. The proposed redevelopment and reuse of the Killaloe Courthouse as a cultural venue is grounded in an identified community need and a viable and sustainable financial model. The feasibility study concluded that subject to funding, supported by a strong governance structure and with the buy-in from the local community from the outset, the project will clearly deliver lasting benefits to Killaloe Ballina and the wider area to justify the upfront investment and create long-term economic and social return."

Following the completion of a feasibility study, and subject to funding Killaloe MD will seek to undertake a detailed design of the repurposed building, which has been an important part of Killaloe's civic and societal history for almost two centuries.

### Crusheen

#### Crusheen Mobility Plan

In March the Crusheen Mobility Plan was presented to the community of Crusheen following significant engagement with the community throughout 2024 and early 2025. In total 6 separate consultation events, including schools' art competition, village walking tour, on-line consultations and 2 public meetings took place with Killaloe MD staff and Helena McElmeel Architects, with over 350 submissions to the emerging plan.



The final draft plan was presented to the community by Helena McElmeel Architects and Brian McCarthy Senior Planner at a public event in March. The Mobility Plan comprises detailed interventions for village including the 1. Tulla Road Active Travel route; 2 Gort Road Active Travel corridor, bus stops and on-street parking and 3 A new public space in the heart of the village as well as 4. Playground Area Enhancement. In line with wider Killaloe MD objectives, Connectivity to the proposed Rail and existing Graveyard is proposed as is a New Pedestrian Access to GAA Ground.

Following with welcoming by the community of the Mobility Plan, and receipt of some feedback, it is anticipated that the Plan will be finalised in May with copies made available to the community and all stakeholders.

#### RRDF Application for Crusheen Connected: Reopening Rail and Revitalising Community, Enterprise and Childcare for Sustainable Rural Regeneration

An RRDF Application for Crusheen Connected: Reopening Rail and Revitalising Community, Enterprise and Childcare for Sustainable Rural Regeneration was submitted by Killaloe MD following its launch in Crusheen on March 10th. The public meeting attended by over 90 people including Oireachtas Members, the Cathoirleach and Elected Members of Killaloe MD heard details of the proposed project.

The proposed RRDF Application will seek to i) reopen Crusheen Railway Station on the Western Rail Corridor, ii) undertake public realm enhancement in line with the Crusheen Mobility Strategy and iii) develop a Multipurpose Community Enterprise Hub and Creche.

The project is a key objective of the recently launched "Elected Members Killaloe - Workplan and Strategy" - follows significant background studies, assessment and engagement with the community over the last 18 months and in particular

engagement by the Elected Members and Senior Planner of the MD with Irish Rail.



Picture of Elected Members, BMC, Members of West on Track, Inchicronan Development Association and member of the community at the launch of the RRDF Application for Crusheen Connected: Reopening Rail and Revitalising Community, Enterprise and Childcare for Sustainable Rural Regeneration

### Enhancing Local Democracy and Functions at MD Level

A key objective of the *Elected Members of Killaloe MD Strategy and Workplan 2024-2029* is to enhance local decision making and the range of services and functions undertaken at MD Level. At the March Meeting of Killaloe MD, a Part VIII Application for the proposed Local Authority own development of a car-park in Bodyke, was considered by the Elected Members of Killaloe MD and deemed adopted. The consideration by the Elected Members of the Part VIII Application at Municipal District level was in accordance with the provisions of that Schedule 14A of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.



At the March MD Meeting, volunteers from the Scarriff Bay FM gave a presentation to the Meeting on the 10 years of local community radio. Scarriff Bay FM were successful recipient of Community Activation Funding and also support from the Killaloe MD enabling the purchase of an Outside Broadcast Vehicle. The attendance of local community radio as well as Clare FM and our local and regional print media at the MD Meetings provide a value and key role in connecting communities with the work of Killaloe MD and the Local Authority.



At the March Meeting of Killaloe MD, the Part VIII for the Bodyke Proposed Car Park and Cycle Parking was deemed approved. The proposed development when taken in conjunction with other developments already provided for by Killaloe MD will provide an integrated approach to sustainable traffic and mobility management for the settlement, whilst retaining the traditional rural character of the village. The recent completion of junction enhancement with landscaping which has established and traffic calming into the village from the east will now be augmented by this cycle and vehicular parking area, which adjoins the Church Grounds and Bus Stop location for the TFI Local Link.



Aerial Photo Bodyke - Proposed Carpark, and bicycle Park



Aerial Photo Bodyke Junction improvements and traffic calming

The development of the approved Car-Park and cycle park the subject of a current application under the Community Recognition Fund, and subject to funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSING

The housing public counter will remain open to the public, without appointment, from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 to schedule same. The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291 or by email: [hat@clarecoco.ie](mailto:hat@clarecoco.ie). Our Ukrainian support team can be contacted on 065 6846577 or by email: [offerahome@clarecoco.ie](mailto:offerahome@clarecoco.ie). Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)

### Clare County Council Housing Grants online application

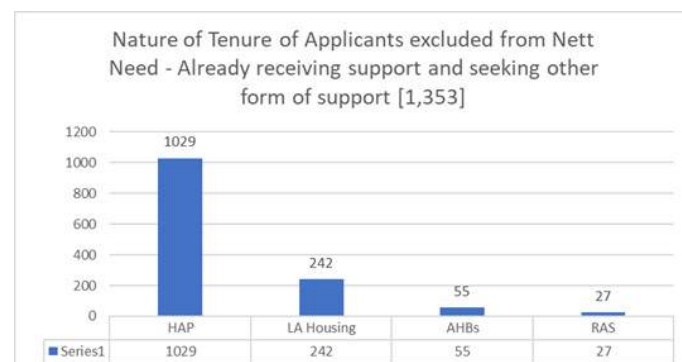
The Council has launched a new online portal for our Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. The availability of the grant application online portal will greatly reduce paperwork, improve the speed of grant processing and allow applicants to see the progress of their grant throughout our approval process.

### Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,184 applicant households (78%) who have a requirement for this property type.

### Current Housing need as of 28/03/2025

Total Households on List	2,792	
Transfer Applicants (see below)		1,353
Net Need	1,439	



### Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved:

Count of FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	BEDS APPROVED			
	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Total
ENNIS	978	180	66	1224
SHANNON	169	37	13	219
CLARECASTLE	153	26	8	187
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	121	23	7	151
KILRUSH	93	23	8	124
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	78	23	3	104
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	66	24	11	101
COROFIN/RUAN	66	14	1	81
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	70	9	1	80
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	59	15	1	75
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	55	13	1	69
KILLALOE	47	15	2	64
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	42	11	3	56
SIXMILEBRIDGE	35	14	4	53
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	34	9	5	48
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	30	6	1	37
CLONLARA	27	7	1	35
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	22	5	3	30
QUIN	15	4	2	21
KILMIHIL	9	4	2	15
KILMALEY	10	2		12
KILFENORA	5	1		6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>2,792</b>

## Newly Qualified Applicants



Amy Kearney receiving the keys to her new home at The Lane Clarecastle, also included in the photograph Máirín Hill Senior Staff Officer, Kevin Kelleher Estate Management Officer and Catherine O Halloran Account Manager.

## Housing Allocations

Clare County Council continues to work with the Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) in relation to the delivery of social housing. The Allocation process in relation to phase 2 of the new social housing development located at Moyard, Shanballa, Lahinch Road Ennis is completed, and the nominated households have been forwarded to Tuath Housing. This development which comprises 48 units in total is delivered by Tuath Housing. Phase 3 which is the final phase of this development will be advertised on the Choice Based Letting (CBL) later this year.

In addition, phase 2 of the social housing development located at Millbank Roslevan, Ennis comprising 10 units was recently advertised on the CBL website. This development is delivered by Co-Operative Housing Ireland (CHI). The Allocations Team are currently assessing the expressions of interest received and this process should be completed within the next 3 weeks.

The new social housing development comprising 7 no apartments located at Main Street Clarecastle is completed and the tenants received the keys to their new home on 18th March last.



Kevin Kelleher Estate Management Officer presenting Rodger Mc Mahon with the keys to his new home at The Lane Clarecastle. Also included in the photograph Catherine Breen Housing Allocations Team and Catherine O Halloran Account Manager





### Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

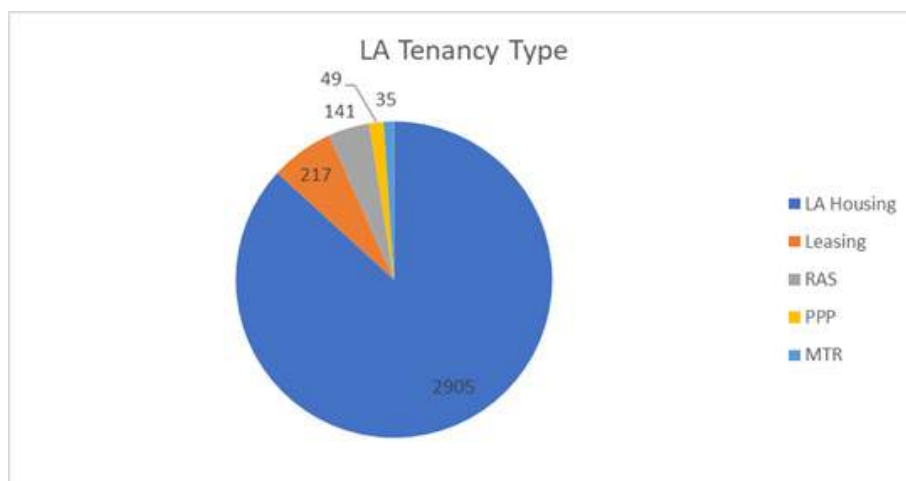
There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 30 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Two properties have been sold in February 2025. It is expected that more sales will complete in April 2025.

Having consulted with elected members in relation to maintaining our newer stock we have agreed that properties purchased or built since 1st January 2016 will not be available for sale under this scheme. This can be reviewed at end of current Housing Delivery Plan period in 2026. We have also agreed that 1-bedroom properties will not be available under the scheme.

### Housing Tenancies:

\*Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; PPP; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent. Excludes AHBs):

28th March, 2025			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	1	1,283	1,284
Killaloe MD	0	370	370
Shannon MD	3	743	746
West Clare MD	3	958	961
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>3,361</b>



There are 142 RAS, 219 leases (126 Long term and 93 short term leases) There are 1029 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing bodies are providing approximately 1,080 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties and these properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System. Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accom.	3	6	1	0	10
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	6	5	1	2	14
Casual Vacancies	30	19	13	11	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>97</b>

## Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continue to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, dealing with complaints re breaches of Tenancy and ASB as well as inspecting Local Authority tenancies and providing the necessary supports to tenants. The team were successful in securing 3 Repossession Orders in court in 2024. A number of further Repossession Applications will be going through the Courts in the coming months.

The team continue to be extremely active in carrying out tenancy visits. It should be noted that the follow up on complaints received and the no. of visits carried out do not correlate with an increase in instances of anti-social behaviour or tenancy breaches but rather that a more proactive approach is being taken with the team in engaging with tenants.

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing [asb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). Listed hereunder shows details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

	Total year to date
Complaints rec'd in relation to breaches of Tenancy	160
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	7
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	17
Abandonment Notices issued	1

Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	15
Repossession Orders	0

The team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and Traveller accommodation sites and have a very visible presence to manage and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour. The team also engage proactively with tenants to help prevent anti-social behaviour, facilitate the daily patrol of local authority sites, arrange specific meetings with tenants as well as engaging with local communities. The working hours of the team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. **(087) 2599568**

## Private Rented inspections:

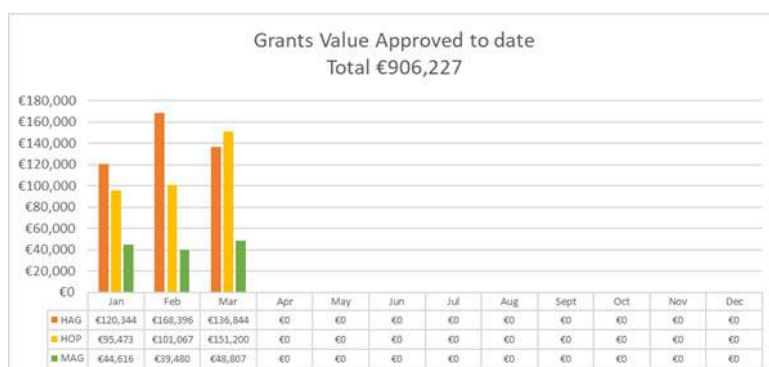
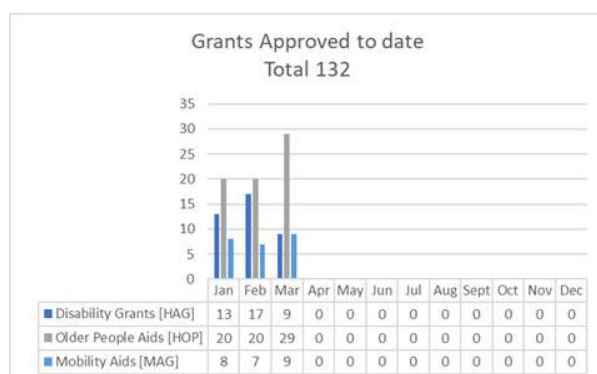
Inspections have commenced for 2025. These inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 252 properties up to the end of March.

## Housing Grants:

The revised application form for **Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People** and Disabled People is available on Clare County Council's website.

The online facility is also available at the following link: [Housing grants | Housing | Services | Clare County Council](#)

## Grants Approved 2025:



## Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie)

There are currently 71 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:

**7 Application  
received to date  
in 2025**

**40 Applications  
received in 2024**

**71 Local Authority  
Loans Approved**

**5 Local Authority Loans  
Drawn Down in 2022, 12  
Drawn Down in 2023, 12  
Drawn Down in 2024 and  
3 in 2025**



### Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan was introduced on the 22 July 2024. This is a government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of derelict and non-habitable homes. The property must be eligible for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, whether derelict, non-habitable or simply vacant.

Full details on the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator can be found on <https://purchaseandrenovationloan.ie/>  
2 LAPR Applications have been received to date.

LL Winter Initiative	0	4	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	6	15	1
Westbrook	0	18	0	1
WB Winter Initiative	0	3	0	1
Ashford Court	12	17	15	1
Clann Nua	0	12	0	1
EA Families	16	24	25	8
EA Individuals	0	27	0	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>25</b>

### The Homeless Action Team

The level of complex cases presenting to the Homeless Action Team in Clare has continued to increase. Additional demands are being placed on the Homeless Action Team to provide Emergency Accommodation in a safe and appropriate manner. The levels of support, advice and advocacy, being requested from households around areas such as Homeless Services, Housing Requirements, Health supports, Outside Support referrals and the need for Emergency Accommodation within this region is increasing.

There has been a notable rise in the number of presentations of individuals and households experiencing difficulties and concerns around Hospital discharges, Prison releases, Family or relationship breakdown, addiction or mental health concerns, dual diagnosis, and a further increase in the number of households presenting from the Travelling Community.

The level of aggression being experienced by the Homeless Action Team staff and supporting agencies staff which increased in 2024 needs to be monitored and addressed in 2025.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports which in turn prevented the need for Emergency Accommodation and avoiding entering Homeless services. Other individuals and families were supported in accessing Emergency Accommodation either within our services or through private establishments.

The Homeless Action Team continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options at a time when accommodation is in high demand generally.

### Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare Homeless Action team continues to engage with all necessary stakeholders, service providers and local supports to adopt a collaborative approach to the tackling of Homelessness.

### Emergency Accommodation Status as of 7th March, 2025

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge (apts)	0	4	0	1

### Exits from Homeless Services:

Clare Homeless Action Team continues to focus on exits from homeless services.

During the period 08/02/2025 to 07/03/2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing	1
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	6
Admitted to hospital	1
Excluded	1
Residential Treatment	0
Tenancy LA	0
Returned to family/friends	0
Other	3

In addition to the above numbers many other households engage with our homeless services on a daily basis.

### Affordable Housing Schemes for County Clare

CCC continue to run Expression of Interest (EOI) Campaigns seeking proposals on options to deliver affordable homes in County Clare. CCC are also engaged with developers with potential for Part V affordable delivery.

To date, CCC have received approvals for access to the Affordable Housing Fund for the following developments:

- Tulla Rd Ennis - 10 units.
- Lahinch Rd Ennis - 11 units
- Shannon - 10 units (3 units allocated)

The online applications portal for the homes in Shannon closed on Friday 21st February 2025, and seven successful applicants have been selected using the Council's Affordable Housing Scheme of Priorities. These clients are now engaged with the developer and their agents to finalise sales. An open evening was held in Ennis to advertise the homes on the Lahinch Road, mortgage teams from Clare County Council, local banks and lending institutions were in attendance as well as the Auctioneer for this scheme. The online applications portal for the homes in Ennis closed on Monday 31st March and the successful applicants are being referred to the developer and their agents to finalise sales. CCC are currently engaged with other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme.

There is an online information portal at <https://affordablehomes.ie/> providing general information to the public with regards to affordable housing.

### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

The Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme went live in mid-July 2023, for private dwellings, with the finalised Act, regulations, updated YQA's (Your Questions Answered) & Ministerial Guidelines published.

On the 7th of November 2024, The Minister approved an increase in the grant cap from €420,000 to €462,000.

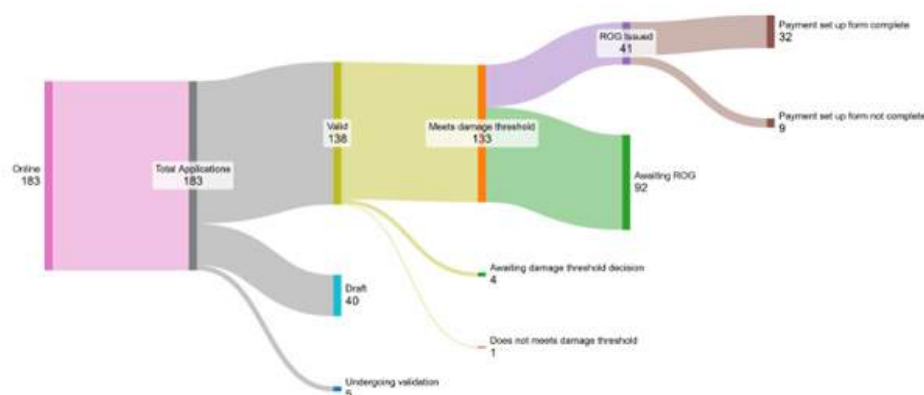
### DCB Application Map



Applications to the scheme can be submitted on-line through CCC's website. The website includes supporting information to further assist homeowners regarding the application process. Clare County Council DCB Team have also included a video on our website called "how to make an application" to further assist homeowners in the application process. In addition, CCC's DCB team is available to assist with any queries homeowners may have. The team can be contacted by email at [dcb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:dcb@clarecoco.ie) or alternatively by phone at 065-6846385, 065-6846468 & 065-6846309.

Clare County Council continue to administer and validate applications since the commencement of the scheme via the online portal. Clare County Council are engaging with the Housing Agency and the DHLGH and continue to carry out all associated duties. To date, Clare County Council have issued 41 Remedial Option Grants, with the total value of €12.61m awarded and are awaiting input from the Housing Agency to further process 92 applications with grant amounts to follow.

### DCB Application Flow Chart



CCC carried out an information evening on 31st March last in the Oakwood Hotel, Shannon. The main focus of the evening was orientated towards applicants who have received their grant option. The event was attended to capacity with positive feedback from attendees.

CCC intend to hold further information evenings in various locations in 2025, to target people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application and other elements of the DCB application process.

Clare County Council continue to engage with the DHLGH to ensure social houses affected by DCB are included in a similar scheme.



### Update on capital programme:

The Doonbeg, Gort Road and Shallee/Cloughleigh projects are under construction and these projects are progressing very well. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design and construction across the the county.

Clare County Council has appointed Custy Construction Ltd. as contractor for the construction of 12 age-friendly social housing units at Back Road, Kilrush. This development will commence early April 2025 is scheduled for completion in 2026



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development



Completed 10 units at Ache Bhile by Cluid Housing Assoc. March 2025



Progress on Gort Road housing development



Progress on Doonbeg housing development

### Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies have a number of projects due for completion during 2025. We continue to support them through regular meetings with individual bodies and through quarterly meetings of the AHB Forum. They play a major contribution in providing housing units and achieving delivery targets under 'Housing for All'. They also are very involved in supporting the housing needs of people with disabilities. The Housing Department lends support through Housing and Disability Steering Group Meetings and administers the Capital Assistance Scheme which provides the required funding resources.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Under Construction	Q1 2024	Q3 2025
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Turnkey - Under Construction First 10 Complete March 2025	Q3 2023	Q1 2025 (10) Q3 2025 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Turnkey - Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Turnkey - Complete	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	28	Turnkey - Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025 (8) Q3 2025 (10)
Circular Road Ennistymon	4	Turnkey - Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Review	Q2 2025	Q4 2025
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Under Construction	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Doonbeg Lands	8	Under Construction	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Construction Contract signed and construction work to commence Q1 2025	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Await Stage 4 approval by DHLGH.	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Stage 3 approval sought. Gone to tender	Q2 2025	Q4 2026
Drumcliff Rd, Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. S179A under judicial review	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>155</b>			
Approved Housing Body Projects	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 3)	Completed Sale closed on 10/03/2025	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 2)	Under construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	34	Under construction: Phase 1 - 18 units Phase 2 12	Q2 2024 Q3 2024	Q2 2025 Q3 2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q2 2025
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey	13	Under construction	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction	22	Planning granted	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Banner Housing Assoc CAS Turnkey	4	Planning granted	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
Inis Housing	5	Under construction	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>114</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>			



---

## UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

---

The CSO figures show there were 747 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 27 granted per day, the number of new arrivals into the Country has increased by 55 people compared to the weekly figures outlined in the previous Monthly Management Report. There are currently 5,061 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 19 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 1,264 people accommodated in 25 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 86 people compared to previous figures. The remaining people are accommodated in residential settings in formal hosted arrangements through the Irish Red Cross and Clare County Council's Offer-a-Home scheme. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 518 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The Government recently announced its decision on the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) and has decided to reduce the payment from €800 to €600 from June 2025 onwards. As the payment is payable monthly in arrears, the first payment at the reduced rate will be received by hosts on 8th July 2025.

The following is an outline of some of the main options homeowners might be considering in light of the forthcoming changes:

- 1. Continue staying under the Offer a Home Scheme, regardless of changes to the payment.**
- 2. Continue staying under the Offer a Home Scheme, but seek an additional financial contribution from the guest to 'top-up' the ARP when the current rate of ARP is reduced.**

The [legislation on ARP](#) states that an additional financial contribution from the guest, beyond utilities, may be considered a rental agreement, regardless of whether this was intentional or not on the part of the host. Simply, it's illegal to top up the ARP payment if it's not the payment for the utilities. It's also illegal to have a rental agreement and claim the Accommodation Recognition Payment. Further information on

the ARP can be accessed at:

[gov.ie - Accommodation Recognition Payment Scheme: Your questions answered](#)

### **3. Continue in the existing living arrangements but transition into a rental agreement**

- The property will have to be withdrawn from the Offer a Home Scheme;
- **The property must be registered with the RTB (contact the RTB for advice on the specific arrangement).**
- Check with Revenue and/or Intreo to determine whether there are tax implications or impacts to any social welfare entitlements (income will be taxed). Rental income is taxable but expenses might get some relief (e.g. RPRIO Income relief).
- Any agreement is discussed openly with everyone involved, is put in writing and has a clear end date (the sample of the Residential tenancy agreement can be found at the following link: [Residential Tenancy Agreement Template | Residential Tenancies Board](#))
- Consider what is a fair amount of money - this will vary based on the individual situation and guests' circumstances.
- The tenant (formerly guest) may be able to apply for [Rent Supplement](#) or [Renters Tax Credit](#) to help with the cost of rent.
- Ukrainians in Ireland are currently not eligible for social housing schemes like Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as they do not have 'a legal right to remain in the state on a long-term basis'.

### **4. End the current hosting agreement, and give your guests notice to find alternative accommodation.**

If the time has come to end the household participation in the Offer a Home Scheme, that is absolutely understandable. The Offer a Home team will assist and provide as much help as we can.

For any additional questions regarding the Offer a Home Scheme, please contact the team on our email address at: [offerahome@clarecoco.ie](mailto:offerahome@clarecoco.ie)

---

## LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM

---



The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities. Their purpose is to help coordinate the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations.

The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community.

### **Who do LAITs support?**

LAITs provide support for:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP)
- People who have been granted refugee status or other

forms of protection, such as subsidiary protection or permission to remain

- Refugees who have been resettled in Ireland through a government programme
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)

### How is the support provided?

LAITs operate under the principle of 'Integration from Day One'. This means that LAITs provide integration support to people who need it as soon as they arrive in Ireland.

### What services do LAITs provide?

The work of LAITs isn't meant to replace existing services. Instead, LAITs help connect people with the existing services that are most suitable for their needs. This includes things like:

- Being a direct contact for new arrivals, helping them with any problems they might have when dealing with public services
- Connecting new arrivals with services like legal help, childcare and healthcare
- Connecting new arrivals with services that improve their ability to live independently, like job training, English classes, education, and apprenticeships
- Guiding new arrivals through the process of applying for financial support, medical help, child benefits, and other services they might need
- Holding meetings in local areas and using community development principles to help those who attend
- Supporting people if they face racism or other unfair treatment, helping them report it to the right authorities
- Helping vulnerable new arrivals get in touch with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other services if they need extra help

### How do I contact my Local Authority Integration Team?

You can contact LAIT's by email on [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)

### County Integration Forum & HSE Workshop - 6th March



Brendan Boyce, Clare County Council, Norma Quirle, Network Manager East Clare Community Healthcare, Bedelia Collins, Health and Wellbeing Manager HSE, Michael Cronin, HSE

### Clare County Integration Forum - Migrant services access workshop in conjunction with our colleagues in the HSE

The HSE team held a Workshop with the County Integration Forum to Understand and Enhance Service User Access to HSE Primary Care Network Services in East and West Clare Community Healthcare Networks on the 6th March. Health access has been one of the findings of the Migrant position paper published last December and this workshop will be a useful step in the onward development of a Migrant and Intercultural Strategy for the County.

### Anti Racism and racism Awareness Training – 12th March



Fiona Cahill from the LAIT attended the anti-racism & racism awareness training which was organised by the LGMA.

Photo Aideen Reddy, Helen Rockett and Robyn Flanagan from the LGMA and members of the Local Authority Integration Teams from Clare, Galway, Sligo, Leitrim, and Mayo, also Philomena and Rohana from the Irish Network Against Racism who provided this informative and interactive training session

### Intercultural Awareness Training - 20th March

Fiona Cahill from the LAIT and Members of the Equality & Human Rights Working Group, and staff from various public facing roles attended Intercultural Awareness training to mark 'Wear Red Day'.

The training was delivered by Kensika Monshengwo of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. Wear Red Day is an initiative of the Immigrant Council of Ireland to celebrate diversity and stand against racism. Wear Red Day is celebrated in Clare County Council supporting the council's Public Sector Duty for Equality & Human Rights.





### 21st March Show Racism the Red Card



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Local authority Staff were asked to **Wear RED** and 'show racism the **RED CARD**' as part of our anti-racism campaign

### Integration Network Event 2025 - 21st March



Sinead Collopy CYPSC Co-ordinator, Padraig McMahon LAIT, Fiona Cahill LAIT & Shane Mulvey Tusla

Fiona Cahill & Padraig McMahon from the LAIT attended the Mid-West & Partner Agencies Integration Network Event 2025. This event was hosted by Tusla and was an opportunity for Tusla and partner agencies across Clare, Limerick and North Tipperary to connect, share, and learn from one another, all centred around the important theme of Integration and to discuss the work being done to support Ukrainian families and families seeking international protection.

### Jobs Fair Shannon - 25th March



Brendan Boyce, Fiona Cahill and Padraig McMahon from the LAIT in collaboration with Shannon Chamber and the Department of Social Protection were delighted to host a Jobs Fair in Shannon as part of the Departments annual work and skills campaign. This was identified as a ke action from the Migrant Strategy that employment was one of many obstacle to achieving enhanced integration and social cohesion.

The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT), in collaboration with Shannon Chamber and the Department of Social Protection were delighted to host a Jobs Fair in Shannon as part of the Department's annual Work and Skills Campaign.

This event provided a platform for local employers to connect with prospective employees through showcasing the employment opportunities available within their companies. Over 40 local employers had stands on the day ,many from international and national companies based in Shannon and the Mid West with over 500 jobseekers attending the event to meet with employers



Tadhg O'Leary Principal Officer for the Department of Social Protection receiving a warm welcome to County Clare from Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan



## NORTH CLARE LEA

### TD Visit

Donna McGettigan TD recently visited the Ennistymon Area office, where she engaged with the Senior Administrative and Technical teams to discuss the various projects currently underway in the region. The visit provided an opportunity for the Deputy to gain a detailed understanding of the initiatives being implemented and their potential impact on the local community. Her feedback on the outlined works was constructive, and she expressed her willingness to offer strategic and political support where appropriate. Such visits are instrumental in fostering strong relationships between public representatives and local authorities.

### Tourist Season in North Clare: Operational Update

The tourist season in the North Clare area is now fully underway, as reflected in the lunchtime image taken on April 1st. Our teams remain actively engaged in the provision of essential facilities and the early-morning cleaning of Lahinch streets, as evidenced by the image captured in the early hours of Sunday, March 16th.

Waste management and critical facility maintenance continue across the Municipal District, ensuring high standards in key locations such as Spanish Point and Doolin. Since March 1st, nearly 10,000 passengers have utilized ferry services in Doolin, highlighting the ongoing demand for efficient infrastructure and services to support tourism.



### Enhancing Accessibility and Safety in Spanish Point

The recent installation of footpaths and a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Armada Hotel in Spanish Point represents a significant improvement in infrastructure, enhancing both safety and accessibility for residents and visitors alike.

These upgrades provide a safer and more convenient experience for pedestrians, particularly in an area frequented by tourists and local patrons. By facilitating smoother movement, they contribute to a more welcoming environment while supporting local businesses and hospitality services. Line Marking will follow in the coming days.



### Comprehensive Roads Programme: Infrastructure Enhancements Across Key Locations

The ongoing roads programme encompasses multiple essential upgrades, reinforcing safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability within the region.

- **Aughinish Island - L-5028 Road Resurfacing:** The resurfacing of this route enhances driving conditions, improving road durability and reducing maintenance requirements while ensuring a smoother journey for residents and visitors.



- **Lahinch - School Road L-1070 Resurfacing & Speed Ramp Installation:** This project not only improves the



road surface but also introduces two new speed ramps, designed to enhance pedestrian and traffic safety, particularly in a school zone where controlled speed is crucial.



- **Miltown - R460 Road Repair:** Targeted repairs on the R460 strengthen infrastructure integrity, addressing wear and tear to maintain a reliable transport network.



- **Willbrook, Corofin - Culvert Replacement:** This vital drainage improvement reduces flood risks and supports efficient water management, safeguarding properties and roadways from potential damage.



- **Clouna, Ennistymon - Subsidence Repair:** Stabilization efforts in this area help mitigate subsidence-related challenges, ensuring a secure and dependable roadway for motorists.



### Restoration of Liscannor Pier Following Storm Éowyn

Liscannor Pier, a structure with nearly 200 years of history, sustained significant damage during Storm Éowyn, leaving a **large gaping hole** in its platform. Recognising the urgency of the situation, Clare County Council conducted a **preliminary assessment** and engaged a contractor to carry out the necessary repairs.

The restoration process focused on reinforcing the pier's foundation, replacing damaged sections. Now nearing completion, **the before-and-after images** illustrate the transformation - from storm-inflicted damage to a reinforced and repaired structure, safeguarding its future.

*Before*



*After*



### Restoration of River Walk Following Storm Éowyn

The river walk, a scenic pathway through wooded terrain alongside the river in Ennistymon town, suffered significant damage during Storm Éowyn, primarily due to fallen trees obstructing the route and creating safety hazards.

Before-and-after images highlight the transformation, showcasing the successful restoration of accessibility. Repairs to the wooden bridge and fencing remain ongoing, reinforcing structural integrity and ensuring long-term resilience for this cherished walkway. These efforts not only enhance safety but also preserve the natural beauty of the area, allowing residents and visitors to continue enjoying the tranquil surroundings.

### Before



### After



### Monastery Lane Car Park Construction Progress

The development of Monastery Lane Car Park in Ennistymon continues to advance, with the **demolition phase essentially complete**, apart from the final removal of external walls.

Construction efforts have now shifted to the **boundary walls**, which will form an integral part of the facility. These structures are currently being built and are showcased in the images below, highlighting the steady progress towards completion.



### Restoration of Glebe Wall Following Storm Éowyn

The Glebe wall, located just outside Ennistymon town, sustained **significant damage** during Storm Éowyn due to embankment slippage, compromising its stability and structural integrity.

In response, repair works commenced to restore the affected section, ensuring its long-term durability. The images below showcase the ongoing progress, highlighting the improvements made throughout the restoration process.



### North Clare Integrated Traffic and Transport Plan

The Senior Team in the MD met with Mr. Tom Barrett ahead of the 2025 season to review the North Clare Traffic and Transport Plan and discuss its progression in the coming year. Mr. Barrett reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the plan's objectives, ensuring continued improvements in infrastructure, accessibility, and sustainable transport solutions for the region.

## SPORTS & RECREATION



### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

#### Gym & Pool Report

#### New Vinyl on Pool windows

We recently enhanced the look of our pool area by installing high-quality vinyl on the pool windows at Active Ennis. These vibrant and professionally designed vinyl's prominently feature our logo, reinforcing our brand identity and making



the space more visually appealing.



## Healthy Clare Blog

We issued two blog posts to the healthy Clare newsletter for March, “Benefits of Exercise for Immune Health” and “Benefits of Hydration”.



## Beach Lifeguard Assessment

On Saturday the 8th of March Active Ennis hosted the beach lifeguard assessment of over 50 individuals. The primary objective of this assessment was to evaluate and select qualified individuals for the beach lifeguard panel, responsible for ensuring the safety of visitors on beaches throughout County Clare during the upcoming season.

The successful candidates will be allocated to beaches across County Clare, ensuring the safety and well-being of beachgoers.



## Footfall Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex.

Total Footfall was 26,533 for February 2025, this was up 2% compared to the previous February (25,053). The average Footfall per day was 948 per day this was up 6% from the previous February 2024 (898).

## Tim Smythe Park & Lee's Road

In February Lee's Road saw 20,860 vehicle entries to the park this was an average of 745 per day. This was up 8% compared

to the previous February (19,272). In February 2024 a total of 19,272 vehicles entered Lees with an average of 664 vehicles per day. This increase in 2025 may be explained by milder weather conditions with Sundays attracting the most amount of park goers.

Tim Smythe Park saw increases in bookings, active hours, and revenue throughout February. The meeting room in Tim Smythe Park was also being utilized by the As I Am Autism charity.



## Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan



After extensive consultation with communities, activity providers, and stakeholders, the Draft Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan is now available to view on our Public Consultation Platform “Have Your Say”. Draft Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan | Clare County Council Community Engagement

This plan outlines a vision for the future of outdoor recreation in Clare using the following five themes People, Places, Partnership, Product and Promotion.

Insert image Clare Outdoor Recreation Draft Plan

## ESF+ Sport4Empowerment Programme

- The pilot project in Lisdoonvarna targeting Ukrainian Refugees in conjunction with Weightlifting Ireland has expanded - Currently an iteration with a group of cancer survivors who formed a Dragon Boat club with Clare Sports Partnership assistance has now commenced with 18 participants.
- A couch to 1km commenced on the 21st Jan for Housing First Group - two participants have attended 6 of the 7 sessions thus far. For the cohort in question that is



significant progress. A taster session of 6 weeks of activities is planned for the wider group.

- Further liaising has commenced with GAA Games to develop an adult introduction to GAA aimed at International Protection Applicants. The aim is to create a football team comprised of 'New Communities', with an exhibition game in Cusack Park.
- Research Funding - The collaboration with Clare Haven on the 'Participatory levels of Children from domestic violent household in team sports' was proposed to their board and they considered ethical concerns - unfortunately they felt they cannot collaborate.
- A formal referral system to the ESF+ role from SICAP, Local Area Employment Service, Employability, Traveller CPD, Focus Ireland, and Probation Service has been initiated. This is for individuals who present to these services, have had training, are interested in training, or need support getting active again. 12 clients have been referred and met so far. This will be expanded to include the Links Worker client base and internally referred.

### **Active Communities (Walking/Running/Cycling/Swimming):**

- Bike Week 2025: An email has been sent to all clubs, schools, and organisations regarding the funding they applied for. They have been asked to provide their event dates and details of their programmes.
- Swimming Initiatives: The Banner Mile will take place on March 25th at Shannon Leisure Centre. This event is open to participants from all locations, starting at 7:45 PM.

### **Community Sports Hubs:**

#### **1. Shannon Sports Hub:**

- Several activity programmes have been organised at Shannon FRC and Shannon Community Sports Hub in March 2025, including Taekwondo and Buggy Buddies.

#### **2. Kilrush Sports Hub:**

- Taekwondo for Women 18+:
- Couch to 5K: The programme is ongoing and is now in its 7th week. More than half of the participants are still attending.
- Strength and Conditioning for Parents at St. Senan's: This programme wrapped up on February 27th, with all 12 participants successfully completing it.

#### **3. Ethnic Minorities**

- Ukrainian Integration Support Fund: A funding application has been developed for ethnic minority groups, particularly Ukrainians, to support physical activity programmes. This will enhance the integration of Ukrainians in the area.
  - o Funding Available: Up to €150 per applicant.
  - o Goal: To extend outreach to more ethnic minorities and develop further integration-

focused programmes.

- Lisdoonvarna Rugby Club: Continue offering weekly fun training sessions for Ukrainian boys and girls of all abilities.
- Lisdoonvarna Failte Classes: There are currently three regular classes, including a Tuesday evening body conditioning class that has been attended by 25-35 people since its start.

### **Sports Inclusion**

- Inclusive gymnastics continues with Ennis Gymnastics Club on Monday / Tuesday evenings. 80 children attend these sessions.
- Eire Og / Corofin GAA and Wolfe Tones GAA All-stars Inclusive Clubs are now running outdoor sessions for over 40 children with a disability.
- St Jospeh's Doora Barefield have started their All-Stars inclusive club journey with CSP, which will be developed in the months ahead.
- Clare Comets basketball all-stars continue to run their indoor sessions on Saturdays in Ennis National School.
- Both Derg AC (Saturday mornings) and Tulla AC (Thursday evenings) continue to run sessions for over 40 children with a disability.
- Nicola Welford from Derg AC was the 2024 Clare Sports Volunteer of the Year Award. She received her award on February 28th at an awards ceremony in Dublin
- James Murrihy completed MAP Training ( Motor Activities Programme Training) that will be rolled out to adult disability services in the near future.
- We hosted a Sports ability day on Thursday 20th February in Ennis CBS Primary School with different sporting NGB's for Disability Adult Services in Co. Clare. 75 Service users and 25 support workers took part in the event.

### **Older Adults**

- The weekly exercise classes that support our tutors in delivering to over 300 older adults in County Clare are on-going.
- Banner Balance (a falls prevention programme) for older adults continues to run weekly with 12 participants in conjunction with the HSE.
- We are halfway through a 6-week PALS (Physical Activity Leader Course for people that work with older adults. We have 18 participants on the course.

### **Schools:**

- Borrowing of playground markings and sports hall athletics packs by primary schools is ongoing
- 4-week primary school cricket programmes, in conjunction with Munster cricket have now concluded in both St. Tola's National School and St. Senan's National School in Shannon.

- Our 6-week “Get Going Get Rowing” programme in conjunction with Rowing Ireland, is ongoing in St. Joseph’s Secondary School in Spanish Point.

### **Men on the Move:**

- The Whitegate “Men on the move” programme continued into February with the 15 men still taking part in their session every week. A new “Men on the move” class is beginning in Active Ennis Fitness studio in March.

### **Women in Sport:**

- The Women in Sport Leadership programme had 3 workshops during the month of February, the first was the second part of Andy Burkes leadership workshops and the 2nd and 3rd workshops explored the areas of strength and conditioning and coach development.
- Kilkee Community College took part in their second “Her Moves” workshop which took place in The Irish Aerial Creation Centre in Clonlara. The girls had a fantastic 3-hour workshop where they learned all about acrobatics.
- Another Her Moves programme took place in

partnership with Kilkishen Handball Club who invited all teenage girls involved in handball in the county to a strength and conditioning and sports psychology workshop.

- A “Her Moves” strength and conditioning programme is planned for the girls in Ennis Community College. This will be a 6-week programme and caters for complete beginners to exercise.

### **Club Development:**

- Safeguarding 1 courses continued during the month of February with both courses running at full capacity.
- Two clubs received funding from our ad hoc club grant scheme for the purchase of new equipment. The clubs involved are hoping to run lady’s social events with the new equipment in the coming months.
- Our first “Season of Respect” course of the year was run successfully in February with four new clubs being added to our list of level 1 certified clubs. The clubs were St Senans RFC, Kilkee Bealaha Hurling and Camogie Club, Moneypoint FC and Crusheen Camogie Club.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

# TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

# Tourism Together Networking Event



The Clare Tourism Advisory Forum and the Visit Clare team of the Tourism Department in Clare County Council hosted a 'Tourism Together' networking event on the 6th March 2025 at the Inn at Dromoland with over 200 providers present. The purpose of this evening was to ensure continued collaboration and development of new initiatives to commit to the local tourism industry that the challenges that are present, can be addressed by working together.

Insights on the night were provided by the Mayor of Clare, Councillor Alan O'Callaghan who set the scene by speaking about the resilience that the sector has demonstrated in light of all recent challenges to the industry. In Clare, our local tourism and hospitality sector prides itself on embracing a spirit of collaboration and a desire to innovate. Time and again, the sector has worked together to overcome challenges by developing new opportunities to reinvigorate and re-invent how we do tourism.

The Interim Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Dr. Carmel Kirby, spoke about Clare's ambitious pursuit of securing international certification for Clare to be certified as a sustainable tourism destination.

Guest speakers on the night were Eoghan Corry, leading travel writer who spoke about and instilled confidence to the audience

on how to leverage opportunity for international promotion and retention of visitors to Clare, whilst also ensuring that as a County we appreciate the value of the high esteem, which Clare is held in on an international basis.

The second guest speaker was Eoghan O'Mara Walsh, Chief Executive of the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation. Eoghan provided reassuring data, statistics and analysis of the tourism industry at a national level and how this transposes to Clare and in particular shared a focus on the tourism priorities in the new programme for Government.

During the night, there was a speed networking session, with industry members having an opportunity to make at least 10 connections with other industry members who they may not have had an opportunity to engage with prior to the event. In addition, there was a spotlight on local food and artisan producers, highlighting how co-ordinated promotions with Visit Clare can work effectively.

The night was a highly successful event, demonstrating Clare County Council's continuous commitment to ensuring the implementation of the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030, through continuous engagement and collaboration with all tourism interests and stakeholders.

Members of the Cliffs of Moher Experience team were in attendance at the Clare Tourism Together Networking Event on Thursday, 6th of March at the Dromoland Inn. The event provided great opportunities to strengthen and grow our relationships with our tourism colleagues!



*Brendan Rouine, Marketing Intern, Cliffs of Moher Experience, Laurie Skelton, Digital Marketing Executive, The Clare Collection/Clare Tourism West and Alan Kiely, Digital Marketing Executive, The Clare Collection/Clare Tourism Northwest.*



Members of the Clare Collection were delighted to attend Visit Clare's highly successful Clare Tourism Together Networking Event, in collaboration with the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, and Clare County Council.



The event showcased the strength and innovation of County Clare's tourism offering through engaging speakers, insightful panel discussions, and excellent networking opportunities.

---

## The Clare Collection

---

### Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

#### *10th Anniversary of UNESCO Global Geoparks, Paris*



The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark Manager Carol Gleeson travelled to Paris to present on the success of the Burren Geopark Code of Practice and GSTC destination certification at the 10th anniversary of UNESCO Global Geoparks in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

Samples of local Burren food were tasted at this conference in Paris to include tasting Burren Smoked Salmon and Burren Beef Feoil at UNESCO Paris reception for 10th anniversary of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

All of the Irish Geoparks were represented at this UNESCO Global Geoparks annual gathering (Image 3) and also met with David Brück, the Irish ambassador to UNESCO and OECD.

### New Burren Cave Research



The Geopark geologist is a partner in a new Geological Survey Ireland-funded project lead by Dr. Gordon Bromley, University of Galway. The project is examining laminated clay layers in several caves in the Burren to help our understanding of how and when they formed. The results will add new information to the story of both Aillwee Cave and Doolin Cave.

### Burren College of Art - Ecology and Sustainability Module geology field trip



The Geopark geologist provided a lecture and field trip for international students at the Burren College of Art taking the Ecology and Sustainability module. This course guides art students in seeing a holistic picture of the Burren which then informs their art.

### Geopark Evening Course Concludes



The Geopark Evening Course concluded with a field trip and guest lecture at the Burren Outdoor Education Centre. This year the guest lecturer was Dr. Tiernan Henry, University of Galway, who spoke about recent collaborative research with the geopark geologist on the significance of the bog on Slieve Elva to maintaining water flow in the Aille River system.

## Geopark photo competition winner



A photo competition to celebrate 20 years of the Global Geoparks Network was won by Anja Kolic, a photographer based in Liscannor. The photo has also won the Irish National Geopark competition and will be submitted to the International competition. Anja won a bespoke Burren Smokehouse hamper packed with local Geofoods

## Loop Head Lighthouse:



*The local community choir Ceol Sionna leading the Loop Head celebrations.*

Loop Head Lighthouse re-opened for the 2025 season on 15th March

The Loop Head Lighthouse and Visitor Experience opened for the 2025 season on 15th March. This year there is a new exhibition in the Crow's Nest viewing platform which was produced in collaboration with Simon Berrow and the Irish Whale and Dolphin group. It comprises information boards and videos about the marine and birdlife around the headland. The hope is that this will explain to visitors the environmental context that the Lighthouse sits in.

On Sunday 16th there was a concert to celebrate both the new exhibition and new season. It was opened by Cllr Rita McInerney, Cathaoirleach of the West Clare Municipal District, with Cllrs Gabriel Keating and Michael Shannon in attendance. Tony Whelan of Canola Pictures who edited the video and Trea Heapes of the IWDG spoke about the new exhibition and music was provided by Bernie Keane and Friends, Ceol Sionna (a local community choir) and singer songwriter Alan Daniel Tobin. As always the event was well supported by the local community.

The Lighthouse is open weekends and bank holidays until the beginning of May and in October and seven days a week in from the beginning of May until the end of October.

## Vandeleur Walled Garden

### Site Visit with Coillte



The Board of Kilrush Amenity Trust, West Clare Municipal District and Coillte met on site to review ongoing Coillte works as well as discussing future plans for the overall site at Vandeleur.

## New Gift Shop Opens at Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre



***Pictured Left to Right: New partners from Kilkenny Design, Brian Markham (Head of Operations at Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre), and Yvonne Sheedy (Commercial Manager for Clare Tourism DAC)***

Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre are delighted to announce the opening of Gifts of Vandeleur, a brand-new gift shop operated by Kilkenny Design. Located in the space previously occupied by the café, this addition is bringing new energy to the courtyard area and has already generated significant buzz on social media. Meanwhile, the café, operated by Brambles, has successfully relocated to the beautifully restored stable block, offering visitors an enhanced experience with expanded outdoor seating and a roomy interior allowing for buggies and prams. These developments mark an exciting new chapter for Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre, enriching the visitor experience and paving the way for an exciting season ahead.



## Bunratty celebrates all thing Irish with St Patrick's Weekend event



Ireland's patron saint and national holiday was celebrated in style at Bunratty Castle & Folk Park on Sunday, 16th of March. Bunratty kickstarted its 2025 tourist season with a comprehensive programme of St. Patrick's weekend entertainment featuring Irish music and dancing, storytelling, demonstrations of traditional Irish crafts and skills, and family fun activities. Family fun activities included the Bunratty Express Train, bouncy castles in the Red Barn behind Macs Pub, and the opportunity to meet St. Patrick and his leprechauns as they paraded through the village street. Irish dancing took centre stage in the Corn Barn with performances by the Linda Ball Hoban School of Irish Dance, and members of the Clare Vintage and Engine Tractor Club demonstrated an array of vintage agricultural machinery at work.

## St. Patrick's Day at the Cliffs of Moher Experience

Visitors from near and far joined the festivities at the Cliffs of Moher Experience, bringing a wonderful mix of culture, joy and Irish spirit! St. Patrick greeted visitors, told them his story and provided them with photo opportunities. There was live traditional music in the Visitor Centre at the Cliffs of Moher Experience from local musicians to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



*St. Patrick with French visitors at the Cliffs of Moher Experience!*

## Langenfeld backbeats percussion band attend Ennis St. Patrick's Day Parade



Backbeats percussion marching band from Langenfeld who attended the Ennis St. Patrick's Day Parade with committee members, Monica Beau, Mary Howard & Bernard Dilger.

## The Clare Collection Highlights Attractions to the Spanish Market



The Clare Collection were delighted to join [Turismo de Irlanda](#) for [Semana De Irlanda](#) (Ireland Week) in the beautiful city of Madrid. With Spain being the 5th largest overseas market into Ireland, [Semana De Irlanda](#) provided the ideal opportunity to showcase our wonderful portfolio and the County of Clare to Spanish consumers and travel trade.

Adrienne O'Flynn, Sales and Marketing Manager Clare Tourism Development East, had the opportunity to showcase Clare Collection attractions and the County of Clare to Spanish consumers with an array of demonstrations, tastings and traditional experiences of Ireland. Meanwhile on Thursday, she had the opportunity to showcase and pitch to over 100 Spanish tour operators dealing with both group and FIT clients.

## The Clare Collection Introduced at ITOA 2025

The Clare Collection were delighted to bring our new brand and portfolio of visitor experiences to this year's [ITOA Inbound Tourism Operators Association Ireland Annual Workshop](#). The event provided a fantastic platform to strengthen relationships with existing partners and forge new connections for future business.



Pictured here with ITOA President Nuala (Devlin) Saul and executive members Vanessa Castles (Abbey Tours) and Giovanni Barone (JacTravel), are our members of our Sales, Marketing and Reservations Teams, Adrienne O Flynn, Leiona Lyons, Melanie Lennon and Sharon Malone.



### EarthCheck Visit to the Cliffs of Moher Experience

An integral part of the County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030, titled 'Guiding our Journey to a Vibrant New Future in Tourism' is the vision for Clare in 2030 for the county to become a 'globally-renowned, sustainable and vibrant destination.' The certification body chosen by Clare County Council, is the leading global scientific benchmarking, certification and advisory group for sustainable travel and tourism: EarthCheck. The Cliffs of Moher Experience were delighted to host Daniel Frey, An EarthCheck Auditor, at the Cliffs of Moher Experience to share and demonstrate to him our sustainability policies and activities.



*Fiona McKenna, Sustainability Destination Development Officer with Clare Tourism DAC, Daniel Frey EarthCheck, Geraldine Enright, General Manager, Cliffs of Moher Experience/Clare Tourism North West2, and Carol Gleeson, Manager, Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.*

### Tourism Ireland Milan Event

Melanie Lennon, Sales & Marketing Manager of Clare Tourism West & Northwest represented County Clare and The Clare Collection with Tourism Ireland in Milan, Italy on Sunday 9th, and Monday 10th of March. The venue – Cascina Cuccagna – provided the perfect setting for engaging conversations and exciting opportunities. The virtual reality headsets brought the 4D Ledge Experience at the Cliffs of Moher Experience to life in a whole new way!



*Melanie Lennon, Sales & Marketing Manager, The Clare Collection showcasing the Virtual Reality headsets at the Tourism Ireland event in Milan, Italy.*

### ITB Berlin Event

Sharon Malone, Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager, at ITB Berlin 2025, represented County Clare at ITB Berlin 2025, from Tuesday, 4th of March to Thursday, 06th of March. The focus at the event was to showcase The Clare Collection – featuring 7 unforgettable experiences to the attendees of the event. From the iconic Cliffs of Moher Experience to medieval banquets at Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, to the charm of the Attendant's Cottage at Loop Head Lighthouse, Clare is a place that leaves a lasting impression, at the world's largest travel trade show!



*Alice Mansergh, CEO of Tourism Ireland, with Sharon Malone, Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager, The Clare Collection/Clare Tourism West & Northwest.*

---

## Visit Clare

Today FM, The Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show week commencing, 7th April

An opportunity has gone out to local providers to provide a week of Visit Clare packages of accommodation, dining and activities prizes to be won in Clare.

This weeklong promotion on air with Ian Dempsey will be live mentions on all our County has to offer with over 216,000 listeners daily.





This promotion will boost the upcoming Be a Tourist in Your Own County Clare.

### Be a Tourist in Your Own County Clare: 12th & 13th April



Following previous years success of 'Be a Tourist in Your Own County Clare' this campaign will kick start the tourism season again this year; weekend of 12th and 13th April.

This initiative aims to enhance local engagement and foster a deeper appreciation of Clare, equipping residents with first-hand experiences to recommend attractions and activities to visitors during the upcoming tourist season. It is also intended to surge business over this weekend.

Once-Off Discounts of 50% OFF and Some Free Admission offers will be available.

### Visit Clare Website Visits: January 1st to December 31st, 2024



**Users: 82,143.**

**Total page views: 201,439.**

The Visit Clare website is performing well, with 73% of users coming from organic search, indicating improved visibility on search engines for the new VisitClare.ie domain. Direct traffic makes up 17%, meaning a good number of people are typing in the full VisitClare.ie web address or using saved links.

**Traffic from April to December more than doubled year-on-year**, rising from 32,892 users in 2023 to 67,910 in 2024 - a 107% increase, comparing like with like since April 2023, which was the first full month of the new site.

## KILRUSH LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA, WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Cappa Sea Wall

Repair works to the section of the sea wall in Cappa breached by Storm Éowyn.



### Miscellaneous Other Works:

West Clare MD carried out repair works to a section of wall that had fallen onto the public footpath.



### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025

In the last month the West Clare MD has continued to carry out drainage works, hedgecutting and road surface preparation works prior to the commencement of the 2025 Schedule of MD works.



### Town Centre First Kilrush

Hassett Ducatez Architects, consultants for the Kilrush Town Centre Plan development, held a public consultation day outside SuperValu on Frances Street on Saturday 22nd March. The day was a huge success, with large numbers of people engaging including from the wider community and business sector. Members of the Kilrush Town Team were also in attendance. There was plenty of discussion on the town's assets and challenges. The day also helped to inform more on what Town Centre First means, what the Plan is and how people can be part of the process. The information collected will feed into the developing Plan.





### Recruitment Competitions March

#### Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Caretaker Traveller Accommodation - Eligibility Exercise
- Acting Senior Executive Health & Safety Officer- Eligibility Exercise
- Harbour Controller - Doolin Pier - Eligibility Exercise
- Canteen Chef/Manager - Eligibility Exercise
- Clerk of Works - Eligibility Exercise
- Climate Action Officer - Eligibility Exercise
- Assistant Facilities Manager - Eligibility Exercise

#### Interviews

- Plant A - Ennis
- Foreman - Kilrush
- Foreman - Ennis
- Foreman - Ennistymon
- Beach Lifeguard Pool Test
- Beach Lifeguard Interviews
- Senior Enterprise Development Officer
- Executive Architectural Conservation Officer
- Harbour Controller - Doolin Pier

#### The following competitions were advertised:

- Senior Executive Health and Safety Officer - Confined
- Climate Action Officer
- General Operative - Ennis MD, Shannon MD, West Clare MD - North & West Clare MD- Kilrush

The Human Resources Department represented Clare County Council at the Multi Sector Recruitment Fair in Shannon and also at a Public Sector Careers Event at the Ennis Campus of the Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board.



# TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS

## MARCH

- Intercultural Awareness Training delivered by the Immigrant Council of Ireland
- Junior Achievement Mock Interviews
- Grade 7 & Analogous Training

### Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Health & Safety Induction
- Identifying Stress in Your Team
- Slips, Trips & Falls

### Health & Safety:

- 3-Day First Aid New Starter Training
- 3-Day Signing, Lighting & Guarding
- Abrasive Wheels
- Banksman
- CPC Driver Training
- Fire Warden Training
- Location of Underground Services
- Ride on Roller
- Manual Handling Ennis







### Employee Wellbeing

The March Wellbeing Focus for February was 'Women's Health'.

### Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

The Workplace Partnership Committee hosted the Chief Executive Staff Talks in March. These were held in 6 locations around the county with over 400 staff in attendance.



## PROCUREMENT

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 26th February to 26th March inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Supply Of A New 26t Winter Service Vehicle - Pre Wet Salt Spreader Truck With Integrated Brine Storage	5286756	23/04/2025 12:00	Open
Tender For Grass Cutting For Clare County Council 2025	5284872	27/03/2025 14:00	Simplified
Tender For The Provision Of Stock Condition Surveys For Clare County Council's Housing Stock	5236119	09/04/2025 16:00	Open
Competitive Dialogue Procedure Pre-Qualification Questionnaire For An Automated Recruitment Software Solution	4838049	12/03/2025 13:00	Competitive dialogue

## FINANCE

The 2024 Annual Financial Statement is being brought to the April Council meeting.

€311.6m expenditure ( excl transfers ) was incurred during the year comprising of revenue expenditure on operating activities of €186.3m and capital project expenditure of €125.3m. This represents an increase of circa €40m on 2023 , an increase of 14%.

The result for the year shows a near balanced position in line with the adopted budget. Positive variances in payroll , commercial rates , and the delayed drawdown of loans have enabled the council to fund unfunded capital expenditure and provide match funding or own resource funding to a number of areas where a requirement or need has been identified by members , budget holders or grant announcements.

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Town Centre First

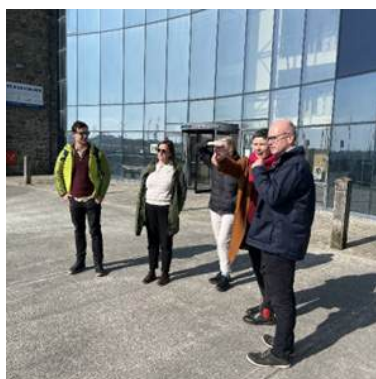
#### Kilrush Town Centre First Plan progresses

A series of meetings took place in Kilrush Town Hall during March to progress the Kilrush Town Centre First Plan. Consultants, Hassett Ducatez Architects presented a draft socio-economic report for discussion as part of the data gathering of baseline information for Kilrush.



Kilrush Town Team meet to discuss data to inform their Town Centre First Plan.

A number of consultation sessions and meetings took place in busy locations around Kilrush to engage with people and listen to their views to inform the Town Centre First Plan. Meetings with cross-directorate staff also took place.



West Clare MD, TCF and PMO staff meet with consultants

#### Supporting and empowering Town Teams

The Town Centre First Department continues to support Town Teams with advice and training to enable them to build capacity in their towns. The training provides vital support, advice and templates all geared at empowering Town Teams going forward. The towns of Sixmilebridge, Kilrush, Tulla, Lisdoonvarna and Clarecastle

have all been working with the Council to establish and develop their Town Teams and assist in regenerating their towns.



Lisdoonvarna Town Team



Tulla Town Team

#### THRIVE Ennis - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

##### Integrated Urban Strategy for Ennis Town Centre

A citizen and stakeholder engagement session was held in March 2025 in the Foyer of Áras Contae an Chláir to provide an opportunity to discuss the draft Integrated Urban Strategy for Ennis Town Centre (Heritage-led). See below photos of the public reviewing and discussing the draft Integrated Urban Strategy.







A short presentation was provided and members of the public had lots of opportunities to discuss and input to the Strategy (see photos above and overleaf).

There was lots of interest from members of the public. The draft Strategy went on public display on the Your Say Engagement platform (online) as well as hard copies at Áras Contae an Chláir and DeValera Library.



The Part VIII Planning application to bring forward designs to regenerate/adapt The Cloister, a significant heritage building and national monument in Ennis, was approved at the Clare County Council meeting on 10th March 2025.

The Town Centre First Department in collaboration with cross-Directorate staff is preparing an application for Thrive Strand 2 funding in April 2025 to bring this project to fruition. THRIVE is funded by the government under the ERDF Regional Programmes through the Southern Regional Assembly.



## FORWARD PLANNING

### Marine Planning and Clare MEZ

The National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI) held its fifth Seafarers Conference in Limerick on the 20th of March. Sponsored by Simply Blue Group, the conference brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from Government Departments, the maritime industry, the supply chain workforce, and training and education institutions. The theme for this year's conference was focused on recognising future seafarers and strengthening what skills they require to play their part in the offshore wind industry. Panel sessions looked at ***“What the future seafarer might look like; Navigating Ireland’s Seafood and ORE Ambition; What Future Maritime Training and Education Institution Will Look Like, and What the Future will Hold”***.

From the Council's perspective the session on What Future Maritime Training and Education Institutions Will Look Like and the changing skills requirements given the introduction of AI, Autonomous vehicles together with the use of drones was key to the future delivery of a maritime training centre in Clare. The ever-changing risk profile necessitates changes in the training provided with larger turbines, harsher weather conditions, more remote sites and new technologies the Offshore Wind Industry is high risk and therefore requires and necessitates a strong focus on safety to grow sustainably. Frank Emil Moen CEO and Managing Partner at Energy Innovation in Norway which has a Centre of Vocational Excellence for Education and Training, O&M and R&D for on and offshore wind and Green Tech outlined how the list of GWO (Global Wind Organization) courses is expanding to meet these challenges.

### GWO COURSES & EDUCATION OFFERED

- One of the most comprehensive GWO training & wind tech education centers in the world -

#### GWO HSE ON-/OFFSHORE:

- GWO Working at Heights
- GWO First Aid
- GWO Manual Handling
- GWO Fire Awareness
- GWO Sea Survival
- GWO Advanced Rescue
- GWO Enhanced First Aid
- GWO Wind Limited Access

#### GWO TECHNICAL COURSES:

- GWO Basic Technical Training
- GWO Blade Repair
- GWO Crane & Hoist
- GWO Rigger / Signalling
- GWO Lift User TRD
- GWO Control of Hazardous Energies TRD

#### OTHER WIND COURSES:

**EI - Service Technician education**

- EI - Emergency Management training
- EI - Accident Management training
- EI - Environment Management training
- EI - Rescue techniques for SAR-crew
- EI - Blade applications (in development)
- Boat Transfer / Boat landing

#### OTHER COURSES:

- Industry/urban rescue techniques
- Rescue techniques for industry
- Fall protection
- FSE First Aid
- Pole climbing and rescue
- Rope Access - NS 9600

#### EI ALSO PROVIDES:

- Global Franchising
- R&D support /coordination for On- & Offshore Wind and Green Tech.
- Consulting on Work Force Training and Work Force Development.

- **Project Engineers**
  - Civil
  - Mechanical
  - Electrical
  - Marine Engineers & Naval Architects
- **Surveying and Scientific Monitoring specialists**
  - Environmental Engineers
  - Geoscientists
  - Natural Sciences Managers
  - Zoologists & Wildlife Biologists
  - Atmospheric Scientists
  - Geological & Petroleum Technicians
- **Finance specialists**
  - Financial Manager
  - Budget Analysts
  - Cost Estimators
- **Permitting specialist**
  - Compliance Officers
  - Lawyers
  - Paralegals & Legal Assistants
- **PR and Marketing specialist**
  - Market Research
  - Analysts & Marketing Specialists

From an Offshore Wind Energy Supply Chain Workforce Mapping point of view, the key requirements from a Planning and Development perspective were outlined with a considerable number of jobs required in this area. A welcome discussion on the monitoring strategies and considerable environmental data required to inform the future planning of our seas in a sustainable manner underpinned the conference. Key to many of the sessions was the importance of undertaking good Marine Spatial Planning which is informed by independent and reliable data. Ireland can learn many lessons in planning for our maritime environment from countries like Norway who are world leaders in Floating Offshore Wind.

### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The deadline for submissions on the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) final map for 2025 and the annual draft map for 2026 is 1st April 2025. Links to both maps are available on the Council's website via the planning section and hard copies are available to view at the Council offices and libraries around the county.

### Next steps and key dates

The council will publish all submissions received on its website by 11 April 2025. Landowners will be notified of decisions regarding requests to exclude lands from the annual draft map not later than 1 July 2025 and will have an option to appeal this decision to An Bord Pleanála by 1 August 2025.

A rezoning request acknowledgement letter containing any details of recent planning history of the land will be issued by the council to the landowner by 30 April 2025. The council will notify landowners of its decision on whether it intends to progress rezoning requests through a variation to the Clare County Development Plan by 30 June 2025. Decisions on rezoning requests cannot be appealed to An Bord Pleanála. The rezoning request acknowledgement letter can be used to support a claim for an exemption from the tax for 2025.

### RZLT liability

The Residential Zoned Land Tax came into effect on 1 February 2025. The Final RZLT Map for 2025, published on 31 January 2025 shows lands subject to the tax. Payment of the RZLT to the Revenue Commissioners is due on 23 May 2025.



## CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

### Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025

On the 27th March 2025 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced the list of projects approved funding under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025. The HSF scheme aims to conserve, protect, and promote the use of historic buildings across our cities, towns, villages, and countryside. Approved projects will benefit from the preservation of their historic structures, ensuring their long-term sustainability and usability.



Under the scheme, one project in Clare has been approved for grant funding in 2025 as follows:

Name and Address of Project	Applicant	Description Of Works	Funding Allocated
St. Flannan's Cathedral, Shantraud, Killaloe, Co. Clare	St. Flannan's Cathedral Killaloe Select Vestry	Phase 4 of extensive conservation works to conserve this 13th century cathedral. Works in 2025 focus on the repair and re-slating of the North Transept.	€114,600.40

## Section 57 Applications

Section 57 Declarations are issued to owners of buildings or structures that wish to conduct works to their structures. A Section 57 Declaration determines whether works would be considered exempt from planning. A Section 57 Declaration can also be used to clarify the curtilage of a protected structure, or what elements are to be protected. There is no fee for a Section 57 Declaration.

Section 57 Declarations	March 2025 up to & including 31/03/2025	Total (Valid) Year to date 2025
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	5	11

# HERITAGE

## Clare Heritage Projects Funding

The Heritage Officer has received funding from the Heritage Council for the following projects: -

- Continuing with the Clare Community Archaeologist Scheme.
- Analysis of the remote sensing data collected for Loop Head in 2024.
- Continuing with the Traditional Skills training with secondary school Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied students.
- Detailed survey and deconstruct a Mud Cottage that is to be moved from a roadside location for Health & Safety reason and reconstruct the mud and stone structure on site as an important aspect of local vernacular heritage and for enjoyment of visitor. This work is being carried out in partnership with the West Clare MD.

## Clare Placenames Committee Established

The Clare Placenames Committee (CPC), Coiste Logainmneacha - Chomhaire Contae an Chláir has been established by Clare County Council Planning Department to advise on place naming that

reflects local history, geography, built and natural heritage, culture and linguistics.

Clare County Council's placenames policy emphasises the importance of preserving local heritage and cultural identity through the naming of new developments, landmarks and public places including housing estates, roads, streets, bridges, landmarks, public parks, amenities and places within County Clare. This initiative seeks to ensure that placenames accurately reflect the local built or natural heritage, culture, and community identity, while supporting the council's policy for placenames.

## Clare Heritage and Biodiversity Forum

Clare Heritage and Biodiversity Forum held its first meeting in 2025. Zena Hocker who is a heritage practitioner and tutor in *Reading Your Local Landscape* Course gave a presentation to the group on the course content and history of the programme in Clare. This was followed by a site visit to Killow Medieval Church and Historic Graveyards to see what has been achieved in the conservation of the Medieval Church with support from the Community Monument Fund.

## Reading Your Local Landscape Course

Preparations are underway to scope the content and seek candidates for the *Reading Your Local Landscape Course* which will be held in Kilkee in September, in association with Limerick Clare Education and Training Board. This initiative is funded by Clare Creative Ireland. The course provides the participants with

- A knowledge and understanding of the natural, built, and cultural resources of the study area
- The necessary skills to undertake further research and work in local heritage interpretation and uploading the information from their projects to Clare iCAN
- Opportunities to identify landscape resources which could be utilised to enhance employment opportunities.



## Clare Heritage Website iCAN

Ruan/Dysart Heritage group are about to launch their community website as part of the Clare iCAN network. Ruan/Dysart iCAN website is the latest addition to the iCAN network of websites in county Clare.



### Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme

The Heritage Council Community Heritage grant scheme was of great interest and at least 20 applications were made from communities and non-government organisations in Clare. Many of these applicants were supported with advice and letters of support from the Heritage Officer when requested.

### The Adopt a Monument Programme

The Heritage Council sought applications for groups to take part in the Adopt a Monument programme. The Adopt a Monument Programme provides expertise, mentoring and support to encourage communities to 'adopt' a monument in their area to ensure ongoing maintenance and greater protection.

### All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme.

Applications are now open for the All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme. The Heritage Council aims to address the shortage of skilled craftspeople in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland by providing training in heritage building skills for those already working in the construction sector. The Skills Programme offers training to stonemasons, carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, blacksmiths, plasterers, thatcher, roofers, tilers, painters or decorators. The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 11th of April 2025.



### National Lottery Good Causes Awards

National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2025 are now open for applications. The National Lottery is seeking entries to this year's Good Causes Awards. If you received funding from The Heritage Council, you are eligible to apply.

---

## BIODIVERSITY

---

### Knocknahila Peatland Rewetting Project

Knocknahila Peatland Rewetting Project is an ambitious project which involves rewetting sections of a blanket bog in West Clare. The project is a collaborative effort between a local farmer, local group Knocknahila Community Biodiversity Group and Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer. Funded by Clare County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (National Parks and Wildlife Service), the project involves rewetting sections of 27-acres of peatland. The implementation of the project involved the installation of peat dams within open drains to raise the water level for Sphagnum moss to establish itself. As a result of this work, Knocknahila Bog is now supporting the expansion of the rare peatland habitat known as an 'active blanket bog'. The bog supports protected raptor species including merlin and hen harrier and red-listed Snipe. Snipe has undergone declines in the breeding population. RPS Group and Blackthorn Ecology carried out hydrological and ecological baseline surveys. The work was carried out by peatland contractor KMF Contracting and overseen by Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer. This has resulted in the creation of this new reconfigured habitat for dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, smooth newt and snipe. Declining birds such as snipe and Curlew depend on this habitat type for nesting. This is a good example of a collaborative project for biodiversity at farm level. This is the second community led peatland rewetting project to be undertaken in County Clare and the first of its kind in West Clare.



Knocknahila Peatland Rewetting Project with Barry O'Loughlin, Biodiversity Officer, Clare County Council; and landowners Kathleen Connolly and Seán Tubridy.







- Cratloe Community Council
- Doonbeg Tidy Towns
- Inagh Development
- Parteen Town Team

### Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan: Clare Meeting

The Steering Group of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan met recently in Athlone to provide an update on actions for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat and implementation of the Lesser Horseshoe Species Action Plan 2022-2026. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer was in attendance. Practical conservation measures at site level and landscape level are an important part of the Action Plan (published in 2022) which aims to guide and inform conservation management of lesser horseshoe bats in Ireland. Lesser Horseshoe Bat is an Annex II listed species of the EU Habitats Directive with several Special Areas of Concern (SACs) designated across Clare for the species. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat occurs in just six counties in Ireland – Clare, Kerry, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Mayo. The species has undergone declines due to habitat loss within its core ranges particularly the loss of woodland, scrub, hedgerows and treelines. Actions to strengthen these corridors is important.



Lesser Horseshoe Bat (Photo Credit: Ruth Hanniffy)

### Clonlara Biodiversity Talk

On 2nd of April, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer gave a talk to Clonlara Community and Clonlara Development Association. The talk covered aspects in relation to Community Biodiversity Action Plans and funding through the Community Foundation Ireland's Biodiversity Fund. The talk also covered the Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project and how actions carried out on church grounds could be replicated in other local communities. Other items covered included adopting best ecological practices such as avoiding pesticides and commercial wildflower seed packets (risk of invasive species present including black-grass), installing bird boxes for red-listed birds, bat roost boxes, invasive species, artificial lighting impacts and pollinator management. Attendees travelled from other local communities including Parteen and Castleconnell in Limerick.

### Community Foundation Ireland Biodiversity Fund

Seven community groups across Clare were awarded funding under the Community Foundation Ireland's Biodiversity Fund. The funding aims to assist communities to either develop a Community Biodiversity Action Plan or implement actions for existing plans. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer has met with communities to develop a biodiversity action plan and to encourage local groups to apply for the funding. Last year Clare was the county awarded the highest number of projects with eleven projects successful. Clare has one of the highest Community Biodiversity Action Plans across the country. The following seven Clare Groups have been awarded funding:

- Connolly Tidy Village
- Inch Tidy Town
- Labasheeda Community Pride Tidy Towns

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of March. Sixty percent of planning applications received in March were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	March	2025
No. of planning applications received	104	253
No. of Planning Decisions made	75	209
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	8	17
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	13	65
No. of Section 5 applications	7	23

No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	3	7
Submissions received regarding Compliance	21	74

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

March 2025 Stats are as follows: (from 24/02/25 to 24/03/25 inclusive)

New Complaints Received	20
New Files Opened	10
Files Closed	2
Warning Letters Issued	36
Enforcement Notices Issued	14
Legal	11

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare commenced the year with a substantial demand for one-to-one mentoring support. 90 clients were assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, with an additional 47 clients attending one-to-one mentoring clinics during Local Enterprise Week.
- **Training:** In March, LEO Clare provided an extensive array of training courses and programmes covering areas such as Starting Your Own Business, Bookkeeping, Social Media, Digital Marketing and Artificial Intelligence. Approximately 230 individuals availed of these training supports throughout the month.
- **Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in March, LEO Clare have processed applications for 12 Digital for Business, 7 Green for Business and 2 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 4 Energy Efficiency Grants & 3 Grow Digital Vouchers.

### Local Enterprise Week 2025

Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted 15 successful events throughout Local Enterprise Week 2025 from 3rd to 7th March, with 195 participants taking part in training & mentoring clinics & 50 attending locally hosted events. The events focused on promoting business growth across all sectors & LEO Clare invited the Workplace Relations Commission & Mid-West Regional Skills to present to businesses.



Local Enterprise Week 2025 launch (L-R Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan & Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise)

### Clare National Enterprise Awards 2025

LEO Clare hosted our annual National Enterprise Awards in the Old Ground Hotel on 7th March 2025. A Shannon based business was announced as this year's Overall Winner, taking home the top prize of €2,500. Indigo will now represent Local Enterprise Office Clare at the National Final at the Round Room, Mansion House in Dublin on the 22nd May 2025. Indigo specialise in design, supply and installation of creative branding and data visuals to commercial industries in Ireland, and around the world & are celebrating 25 years in business this year.



Clare National Enterprise Awards 2025: (L-R Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise LEO Clare, Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan, Overall Winners Shane & Claire Bannon, Indigo & Timmy Dooley, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine with special responsibility for Fisheries and at the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy with special responsibility for the Marine)

Shannon Technical Services were presented with the Outstanding Achievement Award at this year's finals. STS was founded by Ben Whelan & Colm O'Ceallaigh in 2019 and with early support from LEO Clare, the company has grown exponentially with 81 full time employees, clients in over 63 countries and 1,500 projects completed for 43 industry-leading global airlines and lessors.





Clare National Enterprise Awards 2025: (L-R Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise LEO Clare, Ben Whelan & Colm O'Ceallaigh from Shannon Technical Services, & Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan)

### Women in Business Networking Event

Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted a Women in Business networking event at the Armada Hotel in Spanish Point on 5th March. The keynote speaker was Sharon Keegan. As the founder of a successful e-commerce brand, she secured investment from international investors and appeared on BBC1 Dragons' Den, where she won the backing of three Dragons. Her entrepreneurial journey exemplifies resilience, adaptability & impact. Having navigated the challenges of scaling a business, she now mentors start-up founders on innovation, growth & sustainable success. The event was attended by approx. 53 local female entrepreneurs and was deemed a great success.



Women in Business event (L-R Deirdre Keating, SEDO LEO Clare, Sharon Keegan, Keynote Speaker, Helen Pilkington LEO Clare & Theresa Mulvihill, Women in Business Co-ordinator)

many solicitors acting for their clients on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc. We are also processing a number of applications for first registration of Council property and assessing the various properties we own for correct title.

Transaction type	March 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	1	1	6
Licence to use property / building	1	3	14
Grazing Agreement for Lands	7	22	22
Deed of Transfer signed	1	3	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	0	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	1	1	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	0	4
Allotment Agreements signed	1	36	40

### Shannon Allotments

Due to the recent storm Darragh and storm Éowyn, repairs to fencing and fence posts have recently been completed at the Shannon Allotments. The Agreements with the Allotment holders for 2025 are nearly all completed.

### Improvement Works to Council owned property.

#### *Project: The Mill House, Ennis - Graffiti Removal and Maintenance Works*

The Mill House in Ennis is a building of historical significance and is listed on the Record of Protected Structures. It is currently leased to the charity organisation Haven Horizons.

In an act of vandalism, graffiti had been applied to the clay brick on two sides of the building. This needed to be removed safely, and with sensitivity to the brick substrate and the ecological environment around the building. Careful planning was required due to the particular risks involved, including . Some of these risks were:

- Working at a Height near and over water when accessing the riverside from the Mill Road bridge
- Chemical and Biological Hazards of the products used
- Working in the vicinity of members of the public and vehicular traffic

While undertaking the primary job of removing the graffiti, an opportunity was taken to carry out some additional external maintenance work including roof & rainwater services cleaning and painting of the timber-frame windows, doors, facias and soffits.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 21st March 2025 and the corresponding figures for 2024.

The property market in the County continues to be quite active, albeit that there is a shortage of supply, particularly in the residential sector. The Property Management unit continues to assist



Mill House before



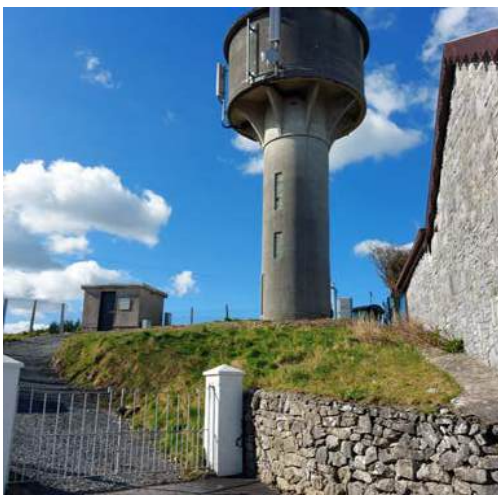
Mill House after

### Project: Quin Water Tower Site - Maintenance Works

Quin Water Tower is located on a sloping site in the heart of Quin Village and was decommissioned many years ago as a water reservoir. It is currently leased to a telecoms network provider. A small outbuilding on the same site is used by the Council's Outdoor Staff, when working in the area.

Recent maintenance work has been carried out to help improve the visual appearance of the site. Works included the following:

- Repair and Replacement of Fencing around the perimeter.
- Replacement of the previously leaking roof on the outbuilding.
- Painting Work to timber doors and the gate piers.
- Replacement of the previously corroded entrance gates.
- Resurfacing the entrance, from public path to the driveway.
- Landscaping work and the removal of old cuttings stored on the site.



## DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 278 properThe Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 282 properties that are considered derelict. We continue to have high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their representatives. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to gain an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, we commence engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing a consistent number of planning applications for property refurbishment/extension and it is clear from driving around the county the level of work ongoing on individual properties. We are advising property owners of the vacant property refurbishment grant if the property is suitable for residential use. With time and effort, working with owners, financial institutions and other departments, there are definite options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in March 2025 and year 2025 to date and the comparative figures for the full year 2024.

Derelict Sites	March 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	6	6	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	6	8	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	0	2	43
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	1	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	4	6	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	2	4	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	0	5



### Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government launched a CPO activation programme in 2023 for local authorities, which set targets for CPOs for each local authority. The Table below sets out the status of CPOs commenced by the Derelict Sites Team in Clare County Council since 2022 to the current year. It is important to note that the CPO process can be lengthy and complex.

Year	No of CPOs commenced	Current Status
<b>2022</b>	<b>6</b>	3 - CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and Part VIII permission has been got for the other property.
		1 - CPO completed and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works
		2 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
<b>2023</b>	<b>10</b>	6- At Vesting Stage and lodged in Tailte Éireann
		1 - CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024
		1 - Title received in December 2024. Property on the open market in March 2025, with a condition for permanent residence..
		1 - Objection received and is under appeal.
		1 - Works are being commenced
<b>2024</b>	<b>7</b>	5 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		2 - CPO commenced but was rejected by An Bord Pleanála
<b>2025</b>	<b>4</b>	3 - CPO process commenced to date in 2025.
		1 - Objection received and process paused for now

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide funding for CPOs on a rolling basis in the town of Ennis with the objective being that these properties would then be sold on the open market. A particular emphasis will be on properties that have potential for residential use. Two such CPOs are with the PRA for registration. Actions taken on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market or making plans for site development.

### Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register commenced in 2023 and notices of valuation have issued to properties as detailed in the table below. Three owners appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and while decisions are awaited on two appeals, one appeal by an owner was rejected. The levy is an annual levy while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. Assessment of valuations and billing of the levy will be further progressed during 2025 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict Sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function, up to and including CPO of properties.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as of 31st March 2025. All other properties on the Derelict sites register are being valued for the purposes of the Derelict sites levy on a regular basis.

Derelict Sites Levy	March 2025	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy has been billed	6	18	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	€41,860	€229,810	€124,110
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	14	16	26
Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	0	8	18
Number of properties where the notice of valuation was appealed by the owner	0	0	3

## VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT - FOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

A meeting has been arranged with officials in the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in April which will be an opportunity for the Vacant Homes Team to showcase the work that is ongoing in Clare and to discuss changes or improvements being considered to the Grants Scheme.

To date the value of grants approved under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant by Clare County Council has exceeded €21 million as at 21st March 2025 (351 grant applications approved or 65% of all applications), with further approvals due to issue. This is a very significant investment in housing in County Clare and the work ongoing around the county on renovations and extensions is very visible. The Vacant Homes Team continues to advise applicants on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals to take them through the process.

The Grant is making a real difference in boosting the supply of rental properties and properties for permanent residence and will deliver on a key priority of 'Housing for All' National Policy and the Vacant Homes Action Plan, the key objective of which is to reduce vacancy and dereliction in our cities, towns, villages and rural countryside and provide more housing options in the process.

A recent interview with Clare FM on the Morning Focus programme has again stimulated more enquiries into the scheme. Any applicant can meet with the Vacant Homes Team in Áras Contae an Chláir by appointment or can discuss their application over the phone with any team member.

The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District is shown in the Table below.

Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (including those with grant funding paid out)			
Local Electoral Area	No of applications approved (€)	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	122	€7.48 million	35%
Ennistymon LEA	69	€4.28 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	67	€3.97 million	19%
Ennis LEA	55	€3.14 million	15%
Shannon LEA	38	€2.24 million	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>€21.15 million</b>	<b>100%</b>

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 is now 526, with 39 of them being received this year to date. We are in the top eight local authorities in the Country in relation to application numbers. Our response time for initial assessment of new applications is generally three to four weeks.

At of 21st March, we have paid out €5.5 million to 95 property owners in County Clare who have completed works – that means that 26% of all grants approved have been paid out to date and many others are in the process of submitting their claims for payment. The final site inspections are organised and the administration of the financial and legal elements of the grant are completed. The level of claims for payment is increasing every day and the Team work closely with owners on this process.



West Clare before







West Clare after

### Other Points of Information

1. Changes to the grant were announced in late 2024 to be in line with the *Energy Performance of Buildings Directive* (EU/2024/1275). In order to meet the timeline in Article

17(15), the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant will no longer fund the installation of stand-alone boilers powered by fossil fuels, for new applications from 1st December 2024.

2. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 56% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 44% for properties in towns and villages.
3. To date, 70% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (376 properties) and the balance of 30% are for rent. This has remained consistent in recent months.
4. A number of property owners have applied to have the period to complete the works extended. Such requests are considered on a case by case basis, depending on the level of work carried out to date and the timeframe needed to complete the works.
5. Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are published on the Council's website. The contact email address for further information and guidance on the grants scheme is [vacant-homes@clarecoco.ie](mailto:vacant-homes@clarecoco.ie).

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### St Patrick's Day 2025



The scene was set for the St. Patrick's Day festivities with Aras Chontae an Chláir, Active Ennis Leisure Centre, Daniel O'Connell Monument, the Wall at 'The Height', the Courthouse, St. Flannan's College and the Friary lit up in green a few days advance.

The Ennis Municipal District team co-ordinated and delivered a very successful 2025 parade strongly supported by the Civil Defence Team, An Garda Síochána and the Fire Service.

Seventy staff from the Council volunteered to ensure the family friendly event took place in a very safe environment. Outdoor crews implemented the traffic management plan which was designed in advance and formed part of the overall event management plan.

Shannon Gospel Choir and Comhaltas were in action early creating a great atmosphere for those arriving in Abbey Street carpark and Steele's Terrace. A well decorated crowd of over twelve thousand lined the parade route which began at Áras Contae an Chláir and finished at the end of Bindon Street. Forty-four groups which numbered approximately fourteen hundred participated expressed 'why they Love Clare' through various forms of music,

art and sport. They were led out onto New Road, by the Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy along with her two chosen Grand Marshals, Dr. Máire Finn and Blackie O'Connell in horse drawn carriage. There was colour, creativity and culture throughout, with prizes awarded to:

- **Clare Tourism** - Most Entertaining Entrant
- **Ennis Tidy Towns** - Best Interpretation of Theme
- **Clare Macra** - Most Creative Float







### St. Patricks Day - Ennis MD Outdoor Crews

Ennis MD crews had an early start on St. Patricks day. Starting at 5:30am, crews undertook their regular street cleaning operations following the busy Bank Holiday weekend. Works continued with unloading and positioning of over 1km of pedestrian barriers along the parade route. Works also included the erection of signage, installation of temporary pedestrian crossing points, temporary stage works, temporary traffic management and the supervision of respective road closures. Once the parade concluded, works continued with the decommissioning of each



barrier and the clean up of the town of Ennis. These works were carried out on the day with the support of the Clare Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána.



Works included, junction markings, pedestrian walkways, centre lines, parking prevention markings and a refresh of existing parking bays in areas including Hawthorns, Woodquay, Brookville, Francis St, Summerhill, Cloughleigh Rd, Corrovorin, Kilrush Rd and Dr Daly Rd.

Other road maintenance activities for this month included various defect repair works including trip hazards and pothole repairs in Abbey St, Connolly Villas, Kilrush Rd, Turnpike, Riverdale & Fergus Lawn. Fencing repair works was also carried out along Cnoc na Scoile adjacent to Ennis National School. Scheduled maintenance of the Ennis surface water network also continued this month with many areas including Morrissey Avenue, Ard na Gaoithe, Castlewood and College Green having road gullies cleaned and suctioned.



## Ballybeg Footpath Scheme

In March, the Ennis MD roads crews commenced work on phase three of the Ballybeg footpath scheme. This final phase of the scheme involves the installation of a new footpath over the narrow bridge adjacent to the water pumping station. When complete, this project will provide a complete footpath linking the R473 Kiladysart Road with the N68 Kilrush Road.

The scheme involved the installation of the following:

- new footpaths
- two no. raised uncontrolled pedestrian crossings
- additional street lighting
- junction improvement works



## Road Maintenance

Ennis MD road crews have been busy during March carrying out road maintenance and drainage works in preparation for completing the Road Works Programme for 2025. This work involves cleaning gullies, trimming road edges, installing drainage pipes, opening inlets and back drains and the filling potholes.

The refreshing of existing road markings and the installation of new was also carried out in multiple areas of Ennis this month.



## Traffic Calming Works

In March, Ennis MD completed a traffic calming scheme in the College Green Housing Estate, this involved the installation of new speed ramps and a new modular chicane to reduce traffic speeds. These works have been previously approved through the Section 38 approvals process.



### Ennis Flood Relief Pump Station Maintenance Works

Repair and upgrade works continued as part of maintenance works associated with the Ennis Flood Relief pump stations this month. Works were concentrated on both the Island Car Park and the Maid of Eireann pump stations. Works included electrical upgrade works to the control panels including the associated cabling, while there was also replacement of ultrasonic floats, which are used to manage and control the water levels within the respective pumping chambers. These pump stations play a crucial role in the protection of Ennis from flooding.



### Illegal Dumping & Community Clean-ups

Ennis MD, along with the Environment Section of Clare County Council carried out numerous clean ups following incidences of illegal dumping this month. There were also clean ups carried out in co-ordination with local community groups and residents associations. Clean ups were carried out in areas including Station Court, Hermitage, Westbourne, Ard Caoin, Clancy Park and Ballyallia. Some of these cleanups were co-ordinated with An Garda Síochána.



### Key Strategic works

Ennis MD staff continue to work on a number of other key projects such as the Town Bus Project, the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA), the Local Transport Plan as well as on a cross-directorate basis with our colleagues supported by the various Government Departments in advancing a number of other works throughout the Town and Environs. These include the Ennis Public Realm Project, the LIHAF Access Road project, the THRIVE project at the Cloister as well as the development of a carpark in conjunction with the GAA at the Cloister end of Cusack Park.

We also work closely with our DAC colleagues in developing the ambitious plans outlined in the *Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy* and in relation to the some of the specific Ennis 2040 Strategy projects, we had a number of sessions with the Members in March, namely a briefing to the Ennis MD Members on March 4th followed by a workshop with the full Council on March 24th that which a good and useful exchange of information and ideas took place. Further engagement and updates are planned.





# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Annual Roadworks Programme) has been finalised and is currently being brought to each Municipal District for consideration.

### Strategic Transportation

<b>Active Travel</b>	<p>The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel office:</p> <p><b>Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme:</b> Statutory Approval granted. Consultant appointed for construction stage services.</p> <p><b>Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle Scheme:</b> Waiting on approval to proceed to public consultation and statutory approval.</p> <p><b>Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:</b> Traffic counts are currently being carried out. The Consultant has discussed various route options and is to provide further potential options and cost estimates with the aim of being able to present the Options Report to the NTA in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>Ennis Town Enhancement, Co-Creating:</b> Design work progressing on junction tightening around Ennis.</p> <p><b>Safe Routes To School program:</b></p> <p><b>Gaelscoil Ennis:</b> Returns for Consultancy services tender for the bridge work element is due mid April.</p> <p><b>Holy Family National School Phase 2:</b> Construction Works Tender for Phase 2 of the works is out to tender and due back mid April.</p> <p><b>Ennis National School:</b> Construction of this scheme is completed.</p>
<b>Public Lighting</b>	<p>Electric Skyline, as the maintenance contractor for Clare County Council, continue to tend to faulty lights across the public lighting network in Clare. All works on public lighting networks are required to meet the ESNB's 'Minimum Requirements for Works on Public Lighting', and in some locations this can require the replacement of cabling, additional civils works or necessary upgrade works, and the attendance of the ESNB. Where additional works are required, repair times shall be extended. Clare County Council continues to liaise with ESNB and Electric Skyline to expedite all repairs. For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (<a href="https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight">https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight</a>).</p> <p>The PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) continues with the retrofitting of existing luminaires to LED in the Ennis, Shannon and Killaloe MD's. 1445 Luminaires have been retrofitted to date to the 24th March representing 45% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project. Design Works are underway in West Clare with retrofit works set to commence in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Clare County Council are working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.</p>

## Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
<b>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</b>	<p>The 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation grant application has been approved, the funding for this year Totals: €689,500.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AA Screening: Invitation to tender has been sent out to the relevant consultants.</li> </ul>
<b>Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b>	<p><b>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025:</b></p> <p>L-3300, L-3301&amp; L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon  L-4174 &amp; L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction  L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon  L-4158 Barefield Village  L-1041 East of Bealaclugga  R-463-125 Ardcloney Bridge, Killaloe,  R473 Kiladysart National School</p> <p>Low Cost Safety Schemes currently going through the Section 38 process  L-3300, L-3301&amp; L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon  L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon</p>
<b>Default Speed Limits</b>	<p><b>Default Speed Limit Update:</b></p> <p>The MDs are completing the installation of new 60kph speed limit signs on the local rural road network.</p> <p>Workshops for staff with detailed advice regarding the introduction of the 30kph urban default speed limits are being organised in April by the DoT.</p>

## TII Safety Improvement


<b>HD17</b>	<p><b>N85 Shanaway Road Junction</b></p> <p>Environmental Consultants have been appointed to carry out an Appropriate Assessment Screening.</p> <p><b>Periodic Special Speed Limits</b></p> <p>Periodic special speed limit signs have been installed on the N67 at New Quay National School.</p> <p><b>Mount Charles Terrace Kilkee</b></p> <p>An updated Feasibility &amp; Options Report has been submitted to TII.</p> <p><b>N68 Cranny Junction</b></p> <p>A signage company has been appointed to supply and fit a Vehicle Activated Warning Sign in advance of the L2138 on the N68.</p>
-------------	---

## Health and Safety

- The Health and Safety team are continuing to carry out their work programme including the annual revision and updating of ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, briefings with staff etc,
- The HS-POL-01 Occupational health and safety policy and the HS-FM-02 Occupational Health and Safety Management system manual/parent safety statement were revised and approved by the Safety Management Committee. Copies of the documents have been uploaded on to the Council intranet under Health and Safety.
- The ISO 45001 Certificate is to be issued shortly by the NSAI for the Physical development directorate which includes Transportation.



## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

<b>Doolin Pier</b>	<p>Following on from consultation with stakeholders and Local Elected members, A Cross-Directorate review was held in 2024 at which current needs were defined and key priorities identified.</p> <p>The focus has now moved to pedestrian routing to the pier area. The MD are progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, the programme of works which is due for completion in coming months. This will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well-trafficked route.</p>
<b>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</b>	<p>The appointed contractor Shareridge Ltd. is progressing works at number of locations, and 5 of the 8 construction phases are complete/at an advanced stage of completion. Civils and construction crews are now deployed throughout the town centre, in accordance with Phasing plan.</p> <p>The area in front of the Cathedral is now very well progressed, and in combination with works previously completed along O'Connell Street, there is now a continuous stretch of Shared Space Public Realm Streetscape in place. The contractor is now working hard to complete the works on upper O'Connell Street, with a view to re-opening the route from Station road to Carmody street in coming weeks.</p> <p>The works have recently commenced in Barrack Square, thereby progressing a new phase of the project works. The O'Connell Square works are ongoing. The street fountain installation is well progressed, with the installation of underground plant room and reservoir in recent weeks.</p> <p>Works have also moved to area surrounding the O'Connell monument and to the centre of the square which is being reconfigured under this project.</p> <p>Completion crews have also been dedicated to works on High Street, and for snagging on uncompleted sections of O'Connell Street.</p> <p>In coming weeks, the contractor will be deploying dedicated works crew to the O'Connell Street/Market Street junction, for which works will be largely scheduled on evenings in order to minimise impact on traders. In such areas of narrow street width, activity will be completed Out of Hours to facilitate pedestrian movement through these street sections.</p> <p>Consultation with impacted traders and stakeholders is ongoing, and the contractor has appointed a Public Liaison Officer in this regard, in line with Works Requirements. A focused Stakeholder Consultation event was held on 9th December 2024 and 19th March 2025 to review upcoming works phases. The contractor is also issuing weekly newsletters to inform of upcoming works. (Subscribe to <a href="mailto:ennis-publicrealm@shareridge.ie">ennis-publicrealm@shareridge.ie</a>). The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff are available to help traders and the public with any concerns and to mitigate impacts from the works wherever possible.</p> <p>It continues to be necessary to close streets to allow these works to be completed safely, and the project team and contractor, together with Ennis MD are working hard to coordinate activities to keep traffic impacts to a minimum and ensure that Ennis is kept open for business throughout the remaining months of this project.</p>
<b>Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)</b>	<p>The Judicial Review process is ongoing.</p>
<b>Killaloe Bridge, Bypass &amp; R494 Upgrade</b>	<p>The most recent Project Milestones achieved include: completion of the Road Safety Audit for the R494 and Shannon Bridge Crossing sections and commissioning of the Foul Sewer Pumping Station. Snagging and de-snagging of the R494 and SBC has commenced.</p> <p>Progress has been maintained despite the recent adverse weather events.</p> 

### **Killaloe Bypass Section**

Opened to traffic and the public on 18th Dec. 2024

Accom. Works to Ballyvalley House and Kincora attenuation pond nearing completion.



### **Shannon Bridge Crossing Link**

Shantraud to Clarisford Junction: Open to vehicles and pedestrians.

Clarisford to West Embankment: Almost complete.



The Green (Road behind St. Anne's School): Now a cul-de-sac. Landscaping complete. Shared facility linked to SBC.



### **Shannon Bridge**

Bridge structure: Almost complete.

Finishing works to East Embankment nearing completion.





### **R494 Upgrade**

Road and Shared Facility: Almost complete. Road Safety Auditor recommendations being implemented.



Landscaping works to public and private areas ongoing.

Accommodation works (driveways, walls, landscaping etc) nearing completion.

Public foul sewer connections scheduled to be complete Fri. 28th March.



Pavement re-surfacing to L94942-1 commenced and scheduled to be complete by Fri. 28th March.



Eir permanent connections to residences and businesses nearing completion. This will facilitate the removal of poles and temporary diversions.

**Kilmastulla Bridge / Rail Bridge**

Almost complete.



**RW03**

Almost complete. Accom. Works to Shannonside nearing completion.



Additional project specific information including monthly drone footage, traffic management plans etc. is available on: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/>

**Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme**

The Project Management Office team presented an update on the progress of the Scheme to the elected members at the March meeting of the West Clare Municipal District on Thursday 20.03.25. A Request for Tender (RFT) to carryout a Geophysical Survey has now been issued by Clare County Council.

The preparation of land acquisition drawings is ongoing.

An Application for Approval to carry out a Flood Relief Scheme is currently being assessed by An Bord Pleanála. The Application was submitted in October 2024.

**Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)**

Following satisfactory Contractor responses on specific tender queries, a recommendation to proceed with the appointment has now been made to Senior Management. Once authorised, a recommendation to commence the contract award process will be made to the Department of Housing / LIHAF Management Committee. Following Department approval, Letters of Intent and Letters of Regret will be issued.

Discussions continue with regard the one outstanding land parcel and we are hopeful of reaching terms by agreement very shortly. All other land parcels required for the road have been acquired/ agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered. Work has commenced on a revised Grant Agreement between the Council and Department of Housing / LIHAF Management Committee which will enable us to move forward with the Infrastructure & Housing delivery in 2025.

**N19 Shannon Airport Access Road**

Further engagement with the main project stakeholders occurred during the period and the design team continue to work towards the finalisation of the Statutory Documentation required as part of the proposed planning application for submission to An Bord Pleanála in 2025. Since the conclusion of the last project Design Update, the design team have further progressed the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) where some additional environmental mitigation measures and minor alignment revisions have now been considered. Positive discussions continue regarding the necessary Land Transfer Agreements between The Minister for Transport, The Shannon Group and Clare County Council and as always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website [www.shannonaccess.ie](http://www.shannonaccess.ie)

**Remediation of sites containing ACM**

Work is underway on the preparation of a Planning Application in respect of the remediation of the subject sites.

The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.



<b>Shannon Town &amp; Environs Flood Relief Scheme</b>	Project team members of CCC and scheme consultant RPS presented an update to the elected members at the March meeting of the Shannon Municipal District on 21.03.25. A further trilateral meeting was held between senior members CCC, OPW and the Shannon Airport Group on Monday 24.03.25. The updated Options Report has recently been issued for the steering groups review. Tenders for the Arborist survey works have been received and under review.
<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)</b>	Consultations between the Project Agronomist, Project Liaison Officers and affected landowners are ongoing. Based on these discussions and the feedback received, the alignment drawings for the Greenway will be further refined, and additional landowner meetings are planned to follow. The Land Valuer has commenced the valuation process.
<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)</b>	Work continues on the development of 'Public Consultation 3: Emerging Preferred Route Corridor', subject to peer review and TII approval process. Preparation of the Options Selection Report continues.
<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 &amp; 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)</b>	The Constraints Study Report review continues in advance of submission to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Preparations for 'Public Consultation 2: Route Options' is underway
<b>Other Greenway Proposals</b>	No update this month.

## General Design Office

<b>Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project - Phase 1 Buildings &amp; Car Park</b>	<p>The General Design Office are project managing the construction works of the Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project. Works are progressing well with demolition of existing construction 90% complete and new car park works 20% complete.</p> <div data-bbox="512 1122 1345 1422" data-label="Image"> </div>
<b>Wood River Walk, Kilrush Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Facility Ballycuggaran</b>	<p>Works on the proposed Fáilte Ireland WC/Changing Room facility are progressing well with construction to roof slab complete.</p> <div data-bbox="703 1570 1163 1825" data-label="Image"> </div>

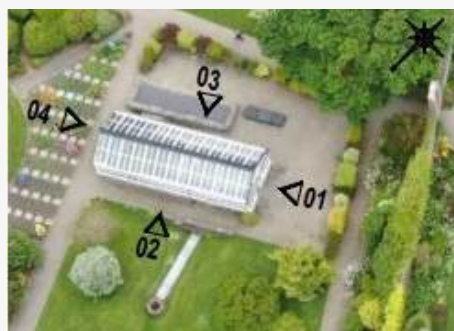
**Mountshannon  
Mobility Plan**

Works are under way as part of the Public Realm & Mobility Plan for Mountshannon.



**Vandeleur - Gardeners  
Yard Wall, Storage Con-  
tainer & Greenhouse  
restoration**

Revised Part 8 planning application to include greenhouse restoration was approved at the March Council Meeting



## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during March including Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFRA) Initial Training & Refresher Training held in Ennis and Kilrush Fire Stations. Three new recruit firefighters from Killaloe, Kilrush and Kilkee Fire Stations successfully completed their QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Courses in Killarney, Mayo and Galway.

### St. Patrick's Day Parades

Fire Service personnel participated in a number of St. Patrick's Day Parades throughout the County distributing home fire safety information. Ennis Fire Station was open to the public on Saint Patrick's Day morning from 9.00 a.m. before the parade. Members of the public had the opportunity to visit the crew, have a tour of the station and chat to the personnel.

Fire & Building Control Section			
Main Activities	Feb 2025	March 2025 (Up to 24.03.25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	77	66	376
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	13	4	23
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	12	8	32
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	6	4	16
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	14	5	24
Number of Commencement Notices Received	27	23	70
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	2

(Note: In the March Monthly Report, the Jan figures related to 1st to 20th Feb due to timing of report)



---

### CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

---

#### Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following events in March including St. Patrick's Day Parades in Ennis and Newmarket On Fergus; Run Clare (Ennis); Clare Vs Offaly Mens Senior Football (Cusack Park); Clare Vs Cork Mens Senior Hurling (Cusack Park); Toughest Mudder Cross Country Running (Kilmaley) and Clean up of Millhouse (Ennis).



#### Members Training & Professional Development

- Members participated in weekly training set out by Civil Defence Instructors.
- Recruit Basic Training (RBT) continues each Monday evening. The class, comprising of 15 participants are currently completing a "Safe Working Near Water" course.
- Some of the Year 2 volunteers have completed a Search Responder course and are currently participating in a First Aid Responder course. Auxiliary Fire Service Training (AFS) has been completed.

#### Health & Safety

A draft Ancillary Safety Statement and 35 Risk Assessments are currently under review as part of the Safety Management System. The newly established H&S Team comprising of volunteers held their first meeting. Two Toolbox Talks were completed during training.

#### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Radiation Exercise

Two volunteers from Clare Civil Defence took part in a National Radiation Exercise in conjunction with the Civil Defence Branch and the Environmental Protection Agency. Civil Defence volunteers from each county collected soil, grass and air samples from various locations throughout the country. The samples were then delivered to various laboratories to be tested for radiation levels across Ireland.

#### Successful Rescue Operation

Clare Civil Defence were requested to assist their colleagues in Galway Civil Defence with a missing person search in the Coole Park area of Gort, Co. Galway. A drone and land search team responded and began searching a large wooded area. Shortly after midnight the drone team spotted a heat source in dense woodland. They were able to direct the land search team to the area of the heat source where the missing person was located safe and sound together with his two dogs. An Garda Síochána thanked all involved in the search for their assistance.

---

## ENVIRONMENT

---

#### Environmental Awareness

##### National Spring Clean 2025

This year, to date, 89 groups have registered for the National Spring Clean in Clare. Groups have been advised that they can avail of free passes to our Waste Transfer facilities. Since January 2025, 23 free passes have been issued to community groups and 19 groups have been supported with Greener Clare clean up packs.

##### An Taisce Green Schools

Clare County Council supports and encourages active participation in the An Taisce Green Schools programme. Our Envi-

ronmental Awareness Officer (EAO) has carried out 14 Green School assessment visits to date. The Green Schools awards are due to take place in May 2025. A further 4 schools are being assessed by An Taisce Green School Travel Officer for travel related themes.

##### Circular Economy initiative

As part of Clare County Council's commitment to reducing waste, single-use takeaway cups for tea, coffee, and soup are no longer available at the Áras Contae an Chláir canteen. Staff are encouraged to bring their reusable cup.

To support this initiative Greener Clare reusable cups were made available to all staff for a €2 donation by the Environment

Section. These cups will continue to be available for a €2 coin donation at the canteen or by emailing [greenerclare@clareco-co.ie](mailto:greenerclare@clareco-co.ie). Additionally, reusable cups have also been distributed to all four Municipal District offices.

Our Environmental Awareness Officer also worked with the Facilities team in placing new waste segregation signage at waste recycling stations at Aras Contae and Chláir.



## ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards

Clare County Council support ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), an all-Ireland programme that recognises and rewards young people aged 10–18 for taking environmental action. We actively encourage secondary schools across Clare to get involved in this inspiring initiative. This month, our Environmental Awareness Officer took part as a judge at the Regional Dens held in Galway City.

## Gardening

The old adage of March of many weathers still holds true and with that the Gardening Team commenced many of their seasonal task such as grass cutting, the installation and maintenance of hanging baskets, and the planting of spring flowers at various public locations.

## National Tree Week 2025

What is now something of a tradition, the Team engaged with various community groups and Tidy Town representatives from across Co. Clare to provide free trees as part of the national 'Tree Week' campaign. The team provided 1,200 native tree species to 24 voluntary community groups, together with providing the necessary advice on how and where the plant trees to ensure they establish and thrive in future years. The strong interest shown in this annual campaign demonstrates the importance of such initiatives and provides a platform for Clare County Council to raise awareness on the value of trees for the benefit of biodiversity, climate change, water quality and flooding mitigation.



Perhaps the most important task undertaken during March by the Team is the preparation and transplanting of juvenile plants, known as 'plugs', which will be grown on in polytunnels over the coming weeks (Insert Gardening Photos 01 & 02). These plants and flowers will be subsequently planted across various public and green spaces over the summer season to provide the colourful and vibrant displays that are strongly welcomed by both the public and Tidy Towns' adjudicators.

## Water Enforcement and Laboratory Monitoring Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific teams to date in 2025:

Water Monitoring & Enforcement Scientific Team	March 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	Monitoring season begins in mid-May	0
Domestic Wastewater		
Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	9	19
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	7	9
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	9	35
Planning applications (Agriculture)	3	8
Planning applications (Domestic)	5	61
Planning applications (Large Developments)	2	7
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	15	24
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	25	45
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	60	100
Rivers	50	64
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	9	20

## Bathing Water Annual Reporting

Clare County Council has defined the length of the bathing season for 2025, reported details of all identified bathing waters



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

and set the monitoring calendars for each identified bathing water for 2025. This data along with details of public participation during 2024 was submitted to the EPA deadline of the 24th March 2025. This information was submitted using the Bathing Water Information System (BWIS) application in EDEN.

### Waste Enforcement

#### Inspections of Permitted and Unpermitted Sites

Inspections of 2 Waste Facility Permitted sites and 4 Certificate of Registration sites were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in March to monitor compliance with their permits, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments. An inspection of alleged unauthorised waste activity at a site came to our attention as part of a Planning referral. This site was inspected, trial holes were excavated to a depth of 1m at specified locations. The case was closed out as no waste was evident in the trial holes at the time.

#### Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, As Amended

A total of 8 litter fines were issued in March, under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. Appropriate time will be provided for payment, thereafter reminder letters are issued. A notice under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 was also issued in March.

#### Enforcement Notices and Warning Letters under the Waste Management Act 1996

4 warning letters were issued in March under the Waste Management Act 1996, as Amended. These sites are being monitored for compliance.

#### Abandoned Vehicles

15 complaints regarding abandoned vehicles were received in March and are currently being investigated in line with Clare County Council's policy.

#### Cleanups at Illegal Encampments

On Wednesday March 12th another joint cleanup took place at two illegal encampment sites in Ennis. Staff from Ennis MD (two crews and three engineers) and Environment (Community Warden and Executive Engineer) were present, as well as two members of An Garda Síochána and a private pest control com-

pany. 1.7t of waste consisting of chairs, nappies, buggies and household waste was removed from the locations and disposed of at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. A significant investment of resources had already been put into cleaning these sites in December 2024 and January 2025.

#### Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter-related complaints in March. A total of 127 complaints relating to litter (14) and waste (113) were received in March. All of these are currently being investigated, followed up and appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

The tables below summarise the work of the Waste Enforcement team in March 2025, in response to complaints:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	March 2025
Litter	14
Dog Fouling	6
Waste Presentation	1
Dumping	83
<b>Waste complaints (total)</b>	<b>113</b>

#### Waste management

Below is a table indicating waste materials collected at all our Civic Amenity Sites for February, which is the most recent dataset available.

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	February 2025 (latest Data)
Bulky items	37,200
Cardboard	16,580
Dry Recyclable	244
Paper	4,120
Green Waste	37,133
Mattresses	4,860
Municipal Waste	126,144
Plastic Packaging	1,520
Timber	120,540

## CLIMATE ACTION

### Climate Action Plan

The Climate Action Plan was adopted in February 2024. Since that time, Clare County Council have been keen to build on this momentum in the area of Climate Action. Through our Climate Action Steering committee, we are managing to push ahead with a number of actions. At the March meeting, elected members were presented with the 2024 Climate Action Progress Report which details the steps taken by Clare County Council in the area of sustainability across all its services in 2024. The document is also published online here



## Community

### National Tree Week 2025



National Tree Week was held from 10th March to 17th March 2025. Interested groups applied online through our community engagement page at <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/national-tree-week-2025>.

As part of Tree Week the Climate Team and the Environment Section engaged with various community groups and Tidy Town representatives from across Co. Clare to provide free trees as part of the National 'Tree Week' campaign. The team provided 800 native tree species to 22 voluntary community groups all across the county, together with providing the necessary advice on how and where the plant trees to ensure they establish and thrive in future years. Planting trees in Ireland offers numerous benefits, including: Climate Change Mitigation: Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it, helping to reduce greenhouse gases and combat climate change, Biodiversity Enhancement: Planting native tree species supports local wildlife by providing habitats and food sources, thus promoting biodiversity & improved air and water quality: Trees filter pollutants from the air and help manage water runoff, reducing soil erosion and improve water quality.

The strong interest shown in this annual campaign demonstrates the importance of such initiatives and provides a platform for Clare County Council to raise awareness on the value of trees for the benefit of biodiversity, climate action, water quality and flooding mitigation.



Projects which are funded under the Community Climate Action Programme are in the implementation phase. Groups have eighteen months to complete their project. Some of the actions undertaken recently include;

- **Carrigaholt Community Development** has purchased and distributed the trees for their dispersed community orchard. They have also planted a number of trees in the community at the castle to create an orchard.
- **Clooney Spencilhill CDG** have completed their planting. This includes trees and native plants. A number of community planting days took place to complete the planting.

- **Shannon Tidy Towns** have installed their pollinator corridor through the town. This involved planting nine raised beds with pollinator friendly plants.





## Awareness:

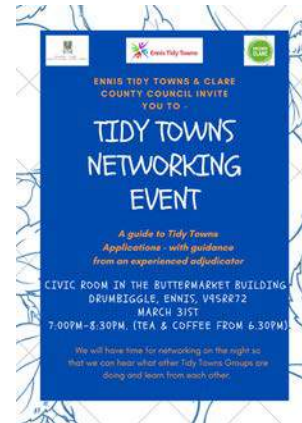
The Climate and Age Friendly team have linked with Ennis Tidy Towns and the Irish Countrywomen's Association to promote a free six step climate course for the over 60's. The course started on March 25th and will continue for six sessions. The course has been designed and facilitated by Jacinta Barrins a former UN Diplomat. The first session on March 25th was opened by Clare County Council's Climate Action Coordinator welcoming everyone and speaking about some of the work of the climate section of the council. This course will continue until June with the final session of the course on June 24th.



The climate section with support from the Creative Communities fund promoted The Rubbish Film Festival in five secondary schools in Clare this month. The Rubbish Film Festival is a digital arts education programme that aims to inspire students' creativity and environmental consciousness. Designed for Transition Year Students, it provided students in County Clare a chance to share their artistic abilities, raise awareness of environmental issues like climate action, and pick up some new digital storytelling techniques. The Five secondary schools taking part in County Clare this year are; St Joseph's - Spanish Point, Coláiste Muire - Ennis, Scariff Community College, St. Patrick's Comprehensive - Shannon and Mary Immaculate School Lisdoonvarna. The winning entries from Clare will be announced at the end of April.



The Climate Team at Clare County Council are partnering with Ennis Tidy Towns to host a Tidy Towns Networking event on March 31st in the Civic Room of the Buttermarket Building. This is the third event in this series aimed at networking and building capacity for the Tidy Towns groups around the county. This event will focus of Tidy Towns applications, with an experienced adjudicator providing guidance to groups.



## Energy

### District Heating Feasibility Study Funding Success

Clare County Council has been successfully awarded €60,000 of funding under the European Union City Facility (EUCF) to complete a feasibility study on the potential viability of a district heating network for Ennis. Ennis is one of just 18 local authorities to receive funding in the Nordic Countries and Western Europe where 86 applications were received. This feasibility study is a stated action in the Clare Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and will inform opportunities for long-term sustainable heating across Ennis out to 2050.



### Auditing and Real-Time Energy Metering

The undertaking of Investment Grade Energy Audits and Real-Time Energy Metering is currently underway at two of Clare County Council's assets, namely Active Ennis Leisure Centre and Áras Contae an Chláir. These buildings are considered Significant Energy Users (SEUs) and collectively consume over 3,400,000 kWh. The Investment Grade Energy Audits are funded under the TRESS project, led by Tipperary Energy Agency, and will create a prioritisation framework for retrofitting both these buildings which include a financing and procurement strategy, taking into account both self-financed, public and private financing options.

Real-Time Energy Metering is currently being advanced and will enable Clare County Council to better manage energy consumption, contributing to the organisation's energy and emissions targets and supporting informed decision-making regarding energy management strategies.

At the March meeting of the Physical Development SPC, the Energy Manager gave a detailed presentation on the Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency initiative being developed by Clare County Council towards reaching their targets

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Group:	Project Details:	Current Progress:
<b>BODYKE TIDY TOWNS</b>	Water Refill Station, Pollinator Friendly Planting.	Planning stage of project
<b>BRIDGE UNITED AFC</b>	Solar PV, Cycle Parking, Recycling Station.	Planning stage of project
<b>CARRIGAHOLT DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION LTD</b>	Flood Gate, Native Trees, Bird Nesting Boxes, Wildlife Cameras, Bee & Bug Hotels, Educational Signage, Accessible Walkway Installation, Seating	Floodgate has been ordered, trees have been purchased the majority of the planting has been complete. Bat, Bird and owl boxes have been purchased and a due to be installed.
<b>CLARECASTLE COMMUNITY GARDEN</b>	Community Garden and Polytunnel.	Planning stage of project
<b>CLOONEY SPANCILHILL CDG</b>	Community Planting, rainwater harvesting, Bike Parking.	Community planting works are complete.
<b>COLLEGE GREEN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION</b>	Native Planting in Housing Estate.	Community planting day to plant native woodland has taken place.
<b>COROFIN TIDY TOWNS</b>	Water Refill Station, Water Bottles.	Water refill station has been purchased. Awaiting installation. Reusable water bottle have been purchased.
<b>CRATLOE COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	Planting, Rainwater Harvesting, Bike Repair Station.	Planning stage of project
<b>DOONBEG TIDY TOWNS</b>	Electric Bike, Solar Outdoor Light, Concrete Base for Bike Shed.	Solar Light installed in Fair green sensory garden. Concrete base and repurposed bike shed has been installed.
<b>ENNIS MENS SHED</b>	Solar PV, Polytunnel, Rainwater Harvesting, Biodiversity Garden, Solar Water Feature.	Solar PV installation is complete on workshop.
<b>ENNIS TIDY TOWNS</b>	E-Cargo Bike, Bike Parking, Bike Locker, Water Refill Station	E-Cargo bike has been purchased and delivered to Ennis Tidy Towns.
<b>INAGH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION</b>	2 Solar PV Projects, Reusable Cups, Rainwater Harvesting, LED Lights, Water Refill Stations, Bike Shelters, Fruit, Nut Trees & Native Hedgerows.	Solar projects are complete. LED lighting works due to commence. Community planting event due to take place shortly.
<b>INCH TIDY VILLAGE</b>	Composter, raised beds and bird boxes.	Works due to commence.
<b>LISDOONVARNA FÁILTE CLG</b>	Native Town Park Planting and Works	Planting works have been complete at the twin wells.
<b>MIKE MCTIGUE COMMUNITY CENTRE</b>	New Windows, Attic Insulation.	Replacement of existing windows with triple glazed units complete.
<b>OBAIR</b>	Solar Panels for Meals on Wheels Delivery Vans.	Planning stage of project
<b>RUAN TIDY TOWNS</b>	2 Raised beds, Fruit trees, Vegetables, Pollinator Friendly Area, Water Station. Hedgerow.	Installation of raised bed complete.
<b>SCARIFF RUGBY CLUB</b>	Replacement of LED lights for pitch.	LED Lighting retrofit works have been complete at Scariff Rugby Club.
<b>SHANNON TIDY TOWNS</b>	Pollinator Corridor, Raised beds planting.	Pollinator corridor of raised beds is complete.
<b>SMITH O'BRIENS GAA &amp; CAMOGIE CLUB</b>	Solar PV, Water refill station, Planting, Bike Parking.	Large solar PV installation complete in Smith O'Brien's GAA Club.
<b>ST. JOSEPHS GAA MILTOWN MALBAY</b>	Solar PV, Rainwater Harvesting, Bike Parking, 3x Composters	Rainwater harvesting system installation has commenced.
<b>WATERWORLD KILKEE</b>	Ground Mounted Solar PV and associated works.	Planning stage of project
<b>WEST COAST SURF CLUB</b>	Water stations (Lahinch & Spanish Point, 100 Water Bottles.	Planning stage of project

Community Climate Action Programme Project Updates: Strand 1



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Strand 1a - Shared Island Fund	Project Details	Current Progress
<b>CLARE GAA / DERRY GAA</b>	Solar PV, Water Refill Station, Bike Parking, Composting, Reusable Bottles.	Solar panels have been installed in Clare Centre of Excellence. Tree planting has taken place in two locations.
<b>FEAKLE GAA / GREENCAS-TLE (TYRONE)</b>	Feakle: Solar PV, Bike Parking, Air to Water Heating, Owl Boxes, Community Bookshelf. Greencastle: Solar PV, Community Garden, Reusable Bottles.	Planning stage of project
<b>CRUSHEEN GAA / TRILICK GAC (TYRONE)</b>	Crusheen: Pedestrian Entrance, footpath, install Solar lighting on path. Trillick GAC: walk/cycle path	Walking track installed in Trillick GAC as part of the project.

### Community Climate Action Programme Project Updates: Shared Island Fund - Strand 1a

Please contact the Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever on [ddever@clarecoco.ie](mailto:ddever@clarecoco.ie) / [communityclimate@clarecoco.ie](mailto:communityclimate@clarecoco.ie) for further information.

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



### General Municipal Allocation (GMA) Workshop for Councillors

A General Municipal Allocation Workshop for the Elected Members of the Shannon Municipal District was held on Thursday, the 6th of March 2025 at 4 pm. Caroline O'Connor, Management Accountant, presented information to the members and staff on General Municipal Allocation governance. It was a very practical event which garnered the views of the members as well as the staff on the distribution of GMA within the Shannon Municipal District.



### New Grant Scheme Announcement

Shannon Municipal District Councillors adopted a new grant

scheme at the March Municipal District meeting of the 21st of March 2025. The new grant scheme targets public realm initiatives and amenities across the district. The new scheme will fund seven initiatives this year. The value of the fund is €21,000 and it will be funded by the member's General Municipal Allocation. The long serving 'Small Grants Scheme' was also adopted by the members in the March Municipal District Meeting and this fund is also €21,000 from their 2025 GMA allocation. The objective of the Small Grants Scheme is to encourage and support local community organisations and community groups active in the cultural, artistic and community development areas of the district.

### Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- Drainage works to roads in the Clonlara, Meelick, Shannon and Sixmilebridge areas.
- Preparation of roads for the 2025 roadworks program.
- Footpath capital works in Westbury and Meelick.
- Storm water pump one Shannon removed off site for re-build.
- Installation of information signage in various locations in Shannon Town.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Pedestrian crossing on Bóthar Mór (R-471) energised by ESB Networks.
- The grass maintenance contract for the Municipal District started in mid-March.

Installation of a bike locker at Westbury bus stop.



Footpath refurbishment at Willow Grove, Westbury.



Installation of a bike locker at Lakyle Heights, Ardnacrusha.



Age friendly bench installed beside the church in Newmarket on Fergus.



Traffic calming measures at Gort Na Null, Sixmilebridge.



Installation of a Pedestrian Crossing in Cratloe.



Commencement of the 2025 landscaping contract.



Footpath refurbishment Elton Court, Meelick.



Footpath refurbishment Newark Grove, Westbury.



Clean up after Storm Eowyn Westbury.



New gates (1) installed to Storm Pump House, Shannon.



New gates (2) installed to Storm Pump House, Shannon.

